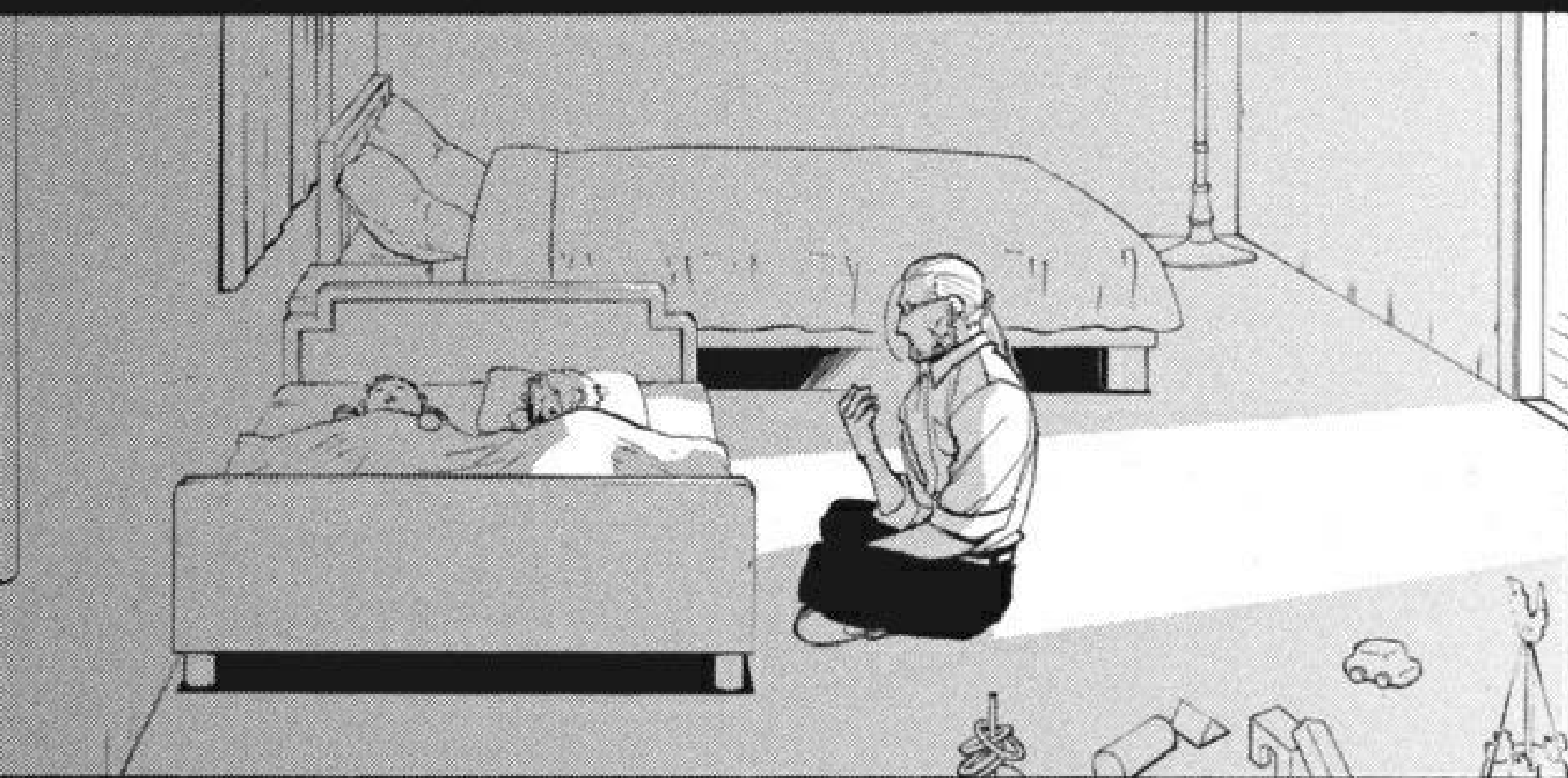
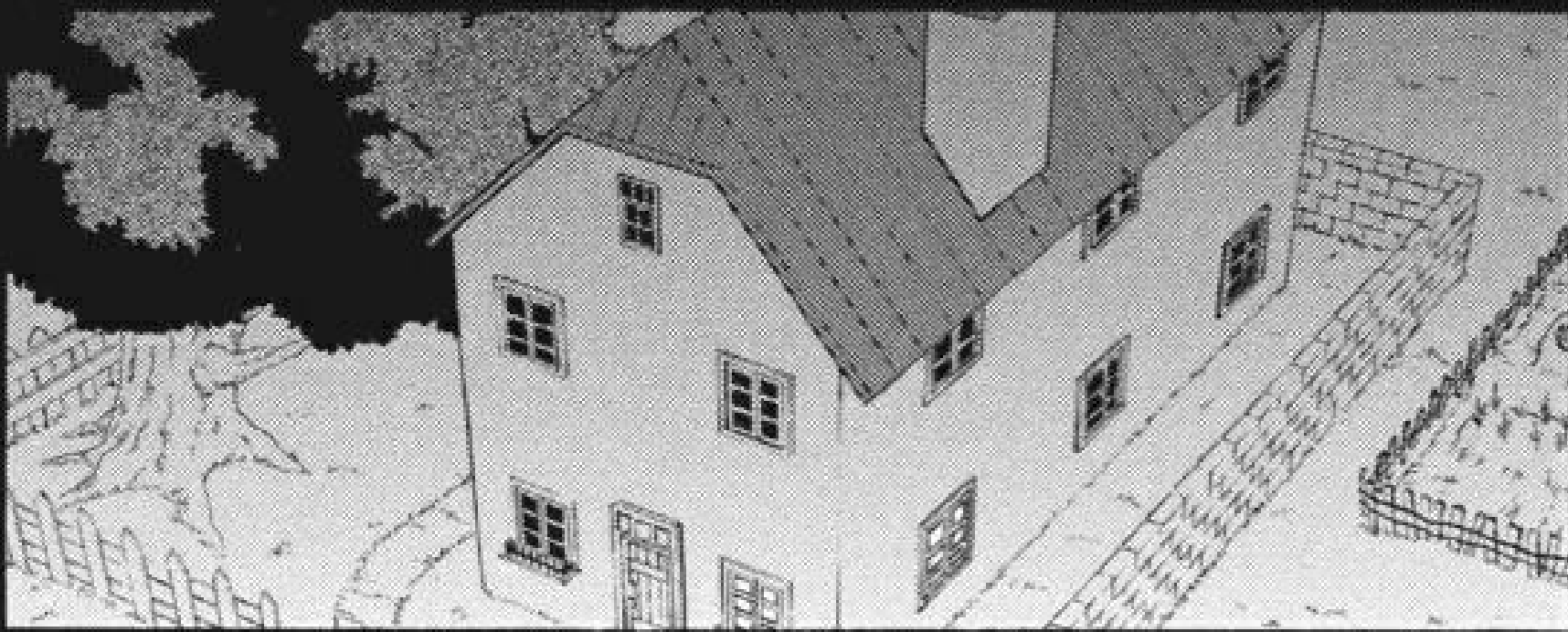
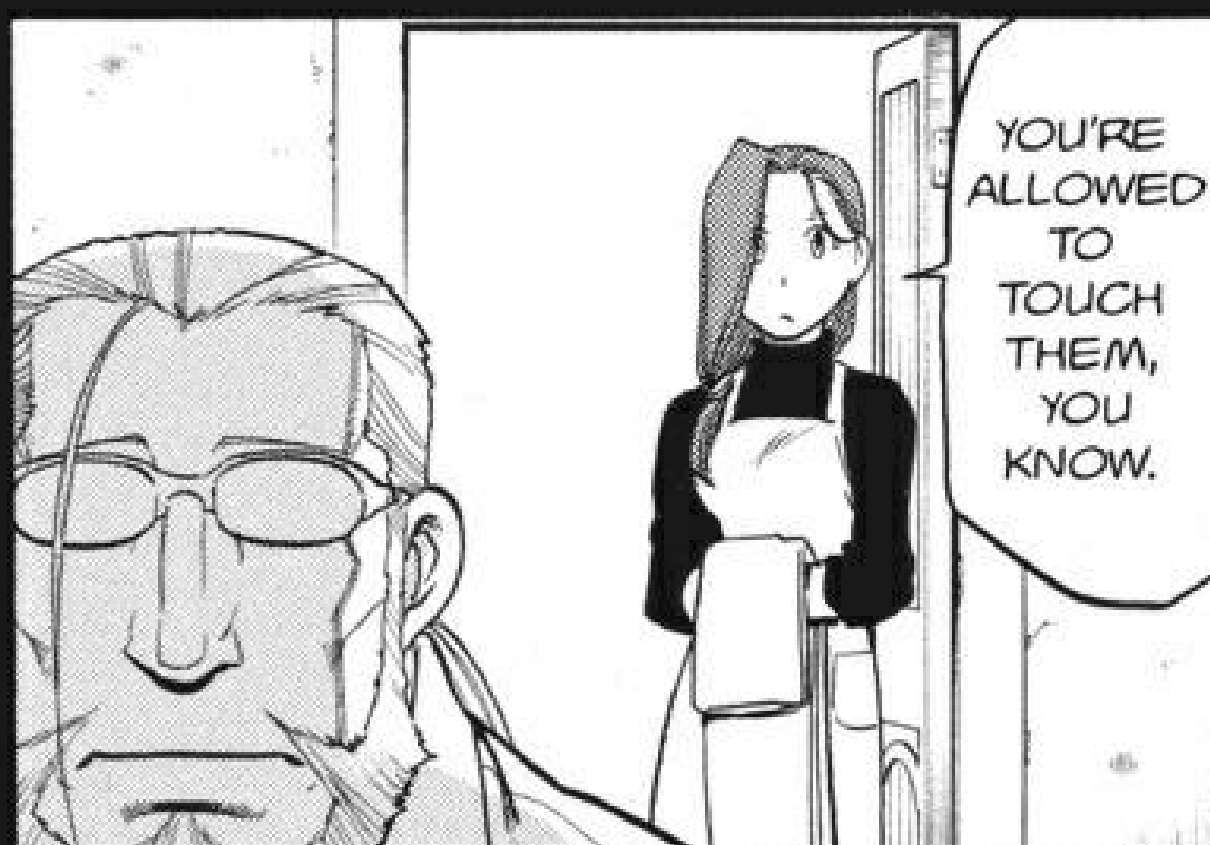






TRISHA,
EVER
SINCE I
ACQUIRED
THIS BODY,
I'VE SEEN
SO MUCH
DEATH.

DON'T
BE
SILLY.

I TEMPERED
MY SORROW BY
TELLING MYSELF
THAT IT WAS ALL
A PART OF THE
GREATER FLOW
OF THIS
UNIVERSE.

I'VE WATCHED
IN SILENCE AS
HUMANITY
REPEATS THE SAME
MISTAKES OVER
AND OVER, NEVER
LEARNING THE
LESSONS OF
HISTORY.

I'VE SEEN MY
CLOSEST FRIENDS
GROW OLD AND DIE
IN THE BLINK OF
AN EYE. FAMILIAR
PLACES HAVE BEEN
RENDERED
UNRECOGNIZABLE
BY THE PASSAGE
OF TIME.

EACH FRESH
ENCOUNTER MADE
ME GLAD THAT I
HAD ACQUIRED
THIS BODY AND
LIVED ON.

THERE WERE
STILL MANY
BEAUTIFUL AND
MYSTERIOUS
THINGS IN THE
WORLD THAT I
HADN'T SEEN.

...TRISHA...
...UNTIL...
I MET
YOU, AND
THESE
CHILDREN
WERE
BORN.

THAT'S
WHAT
I
THOUGHT...

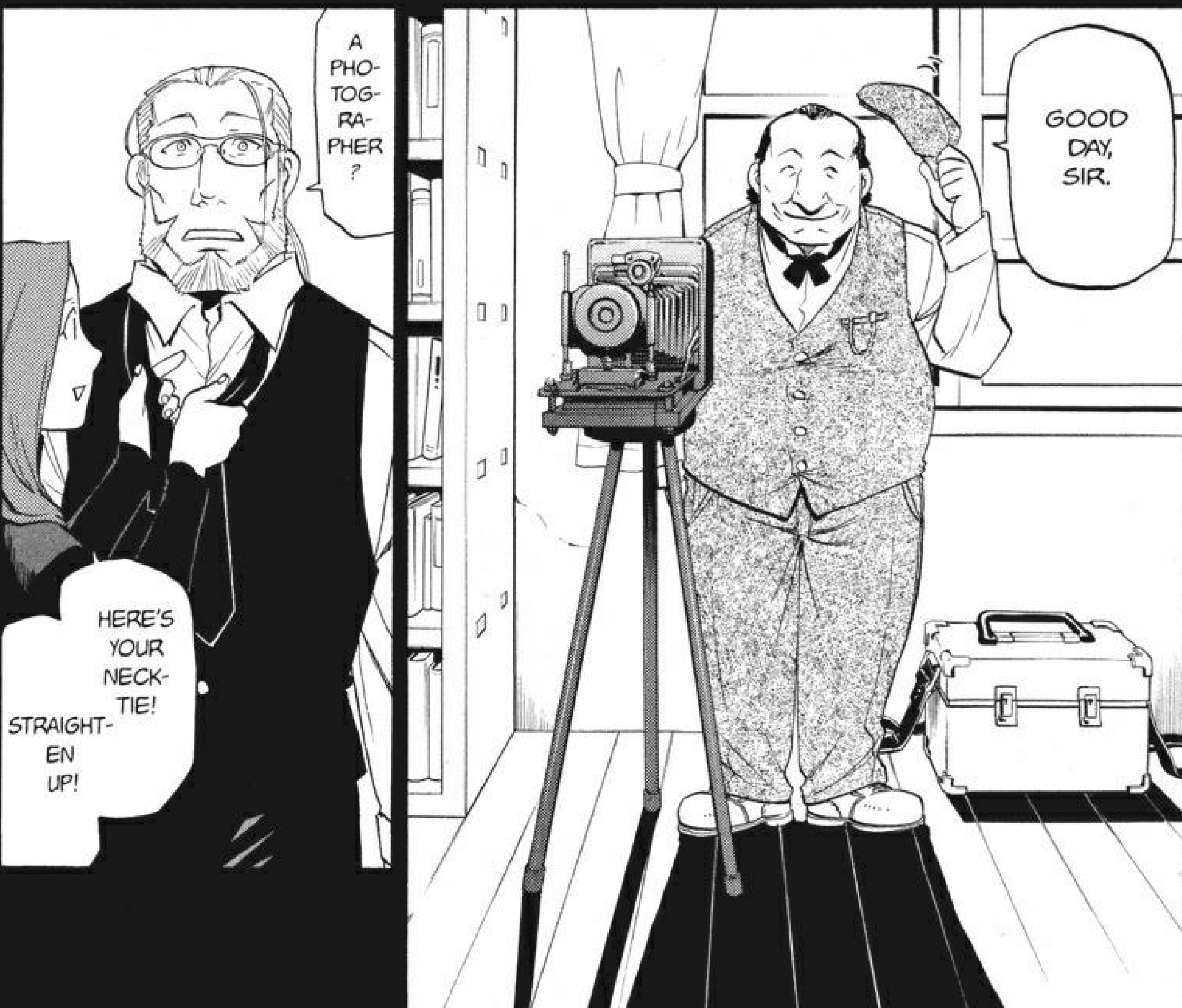
SUD-
DENLY...

...I'M
**TERRI-
FIED.**

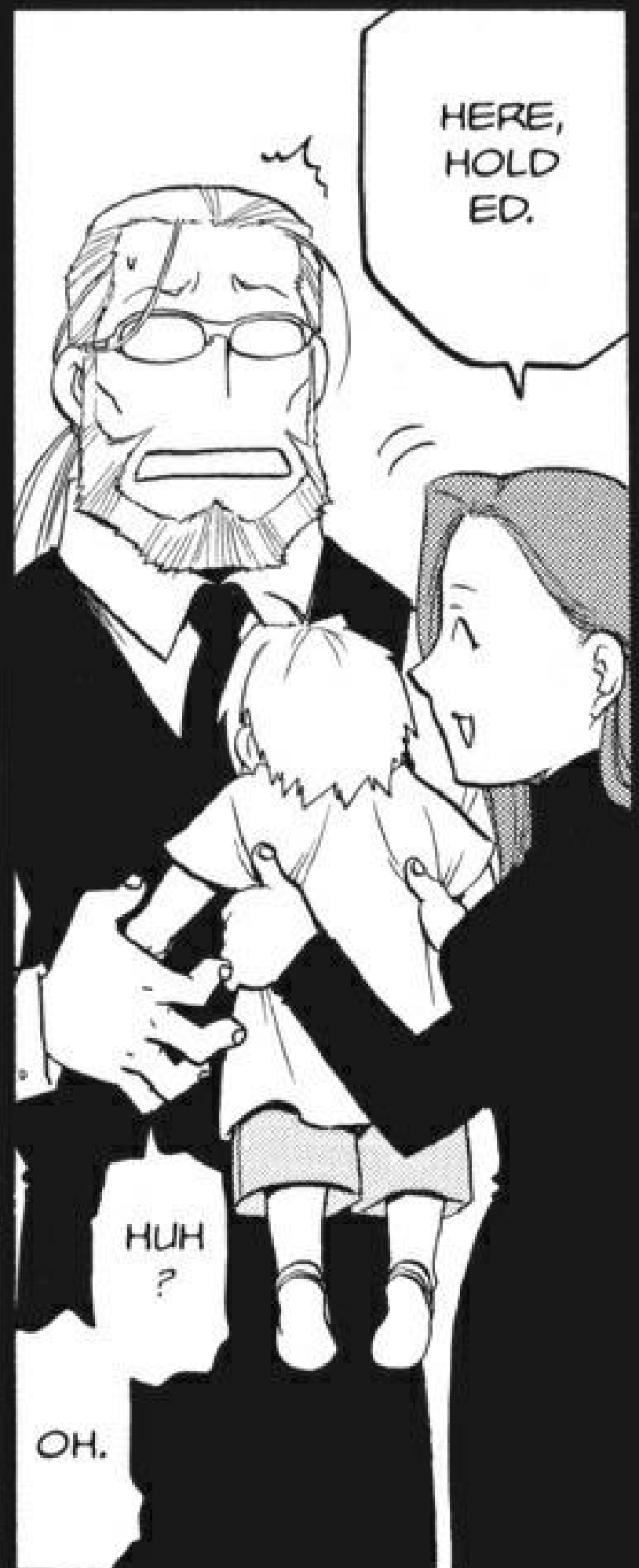
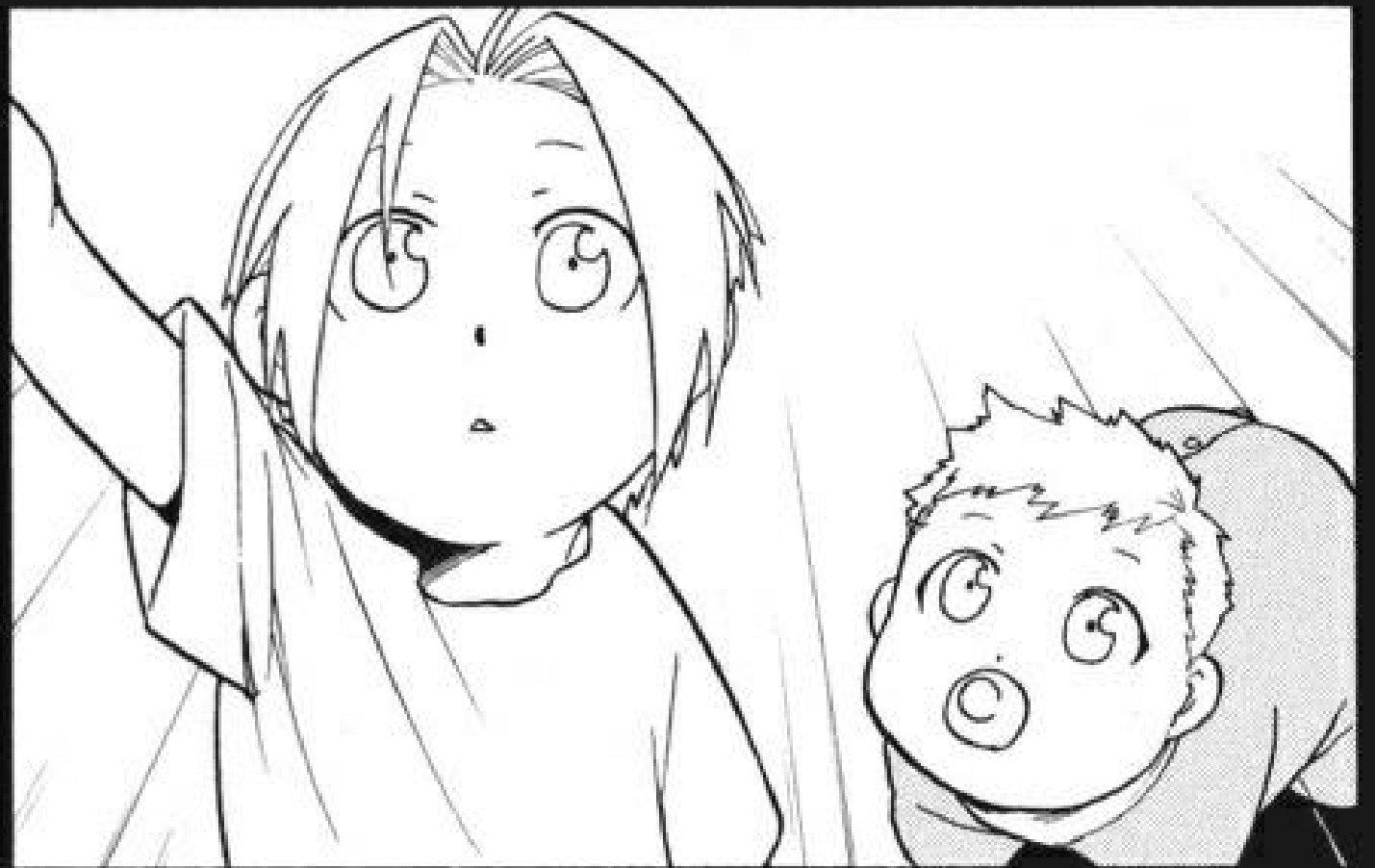
I NEVER GET
OLDER, YET
MY SONS,
WHO SHARE
MY BLOOD,
CONTINUE
TO AGE AND
GROW.

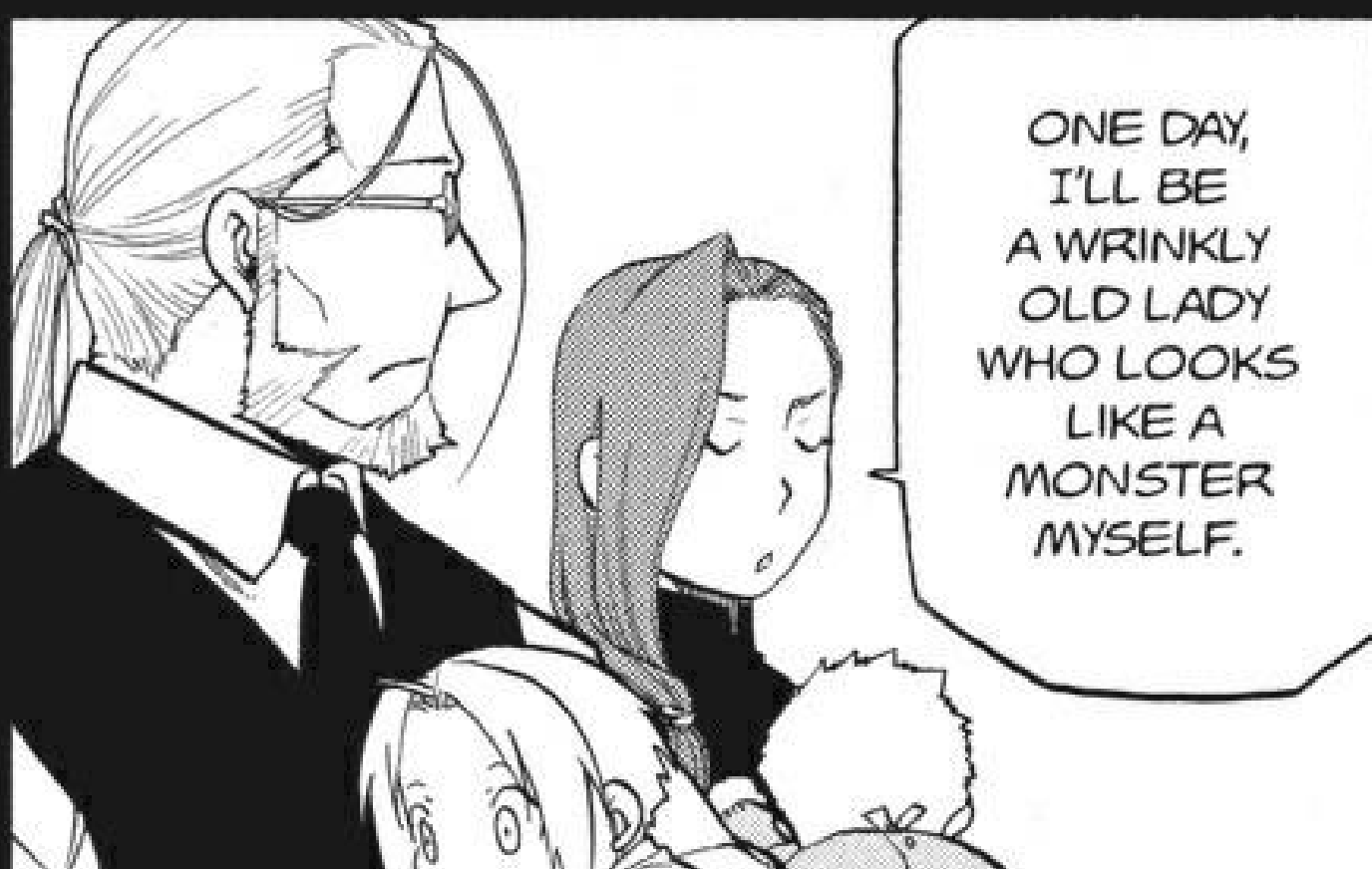
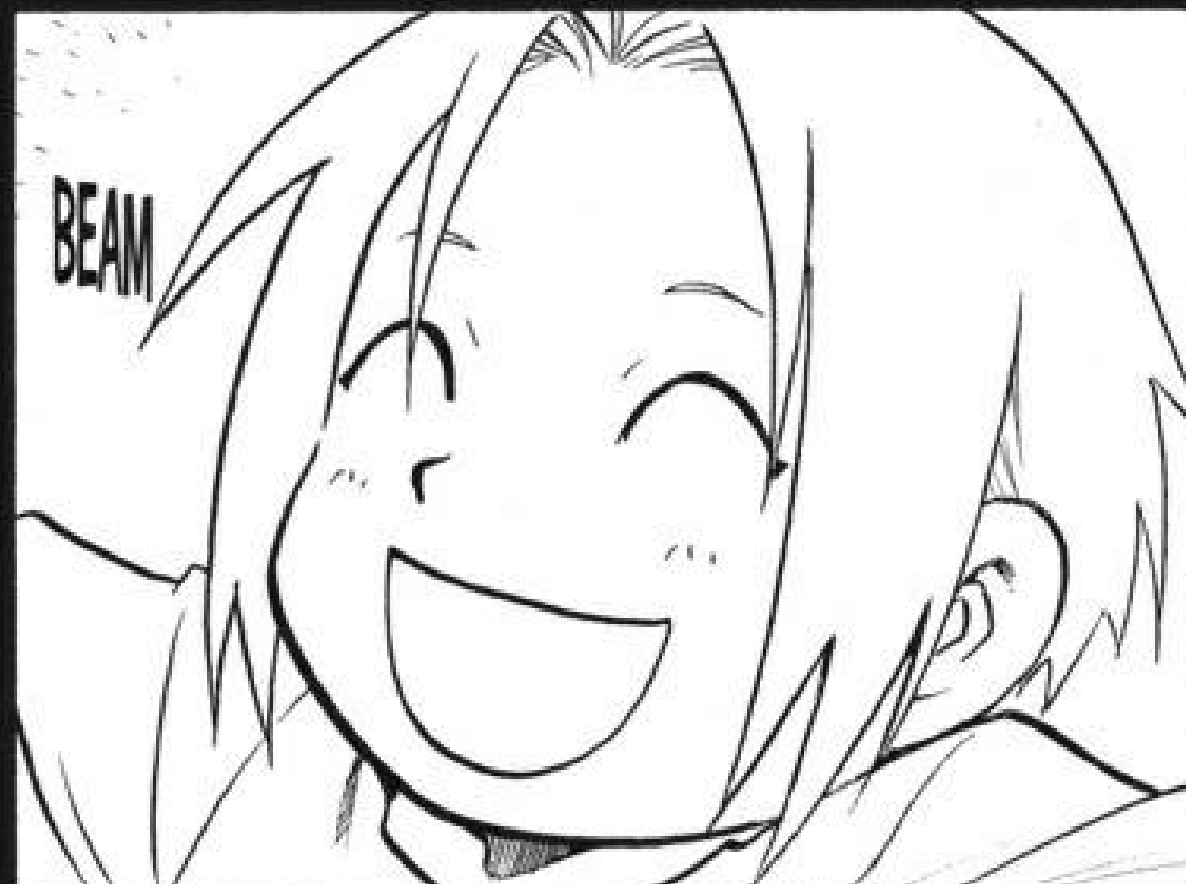
Chapter 68: Portrait of a Family











ONE DAY,
I'LL BE
A WRINKLY
OLD LADY
WHO LOOKS
LIKE A
MONSTER
MYSELF.

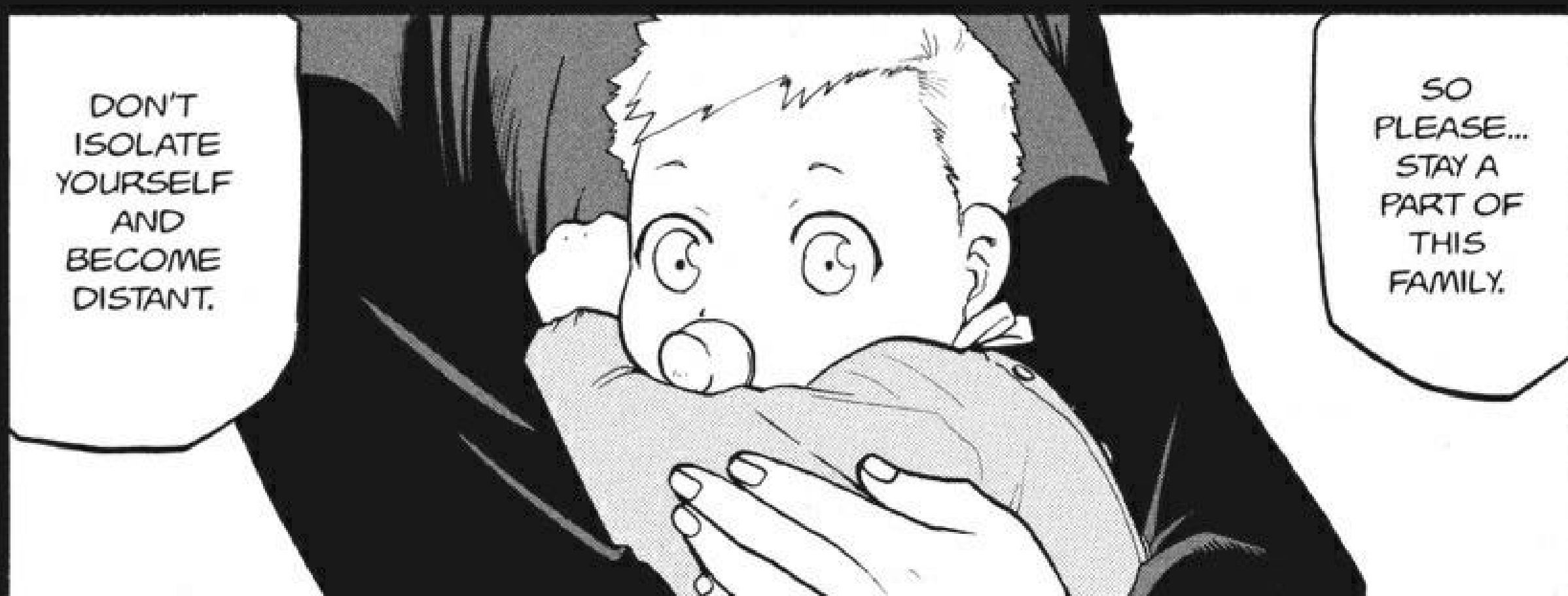


OKAY,
PLEASE
FACE
THIS WAY
AND
DON'T
MOVE.



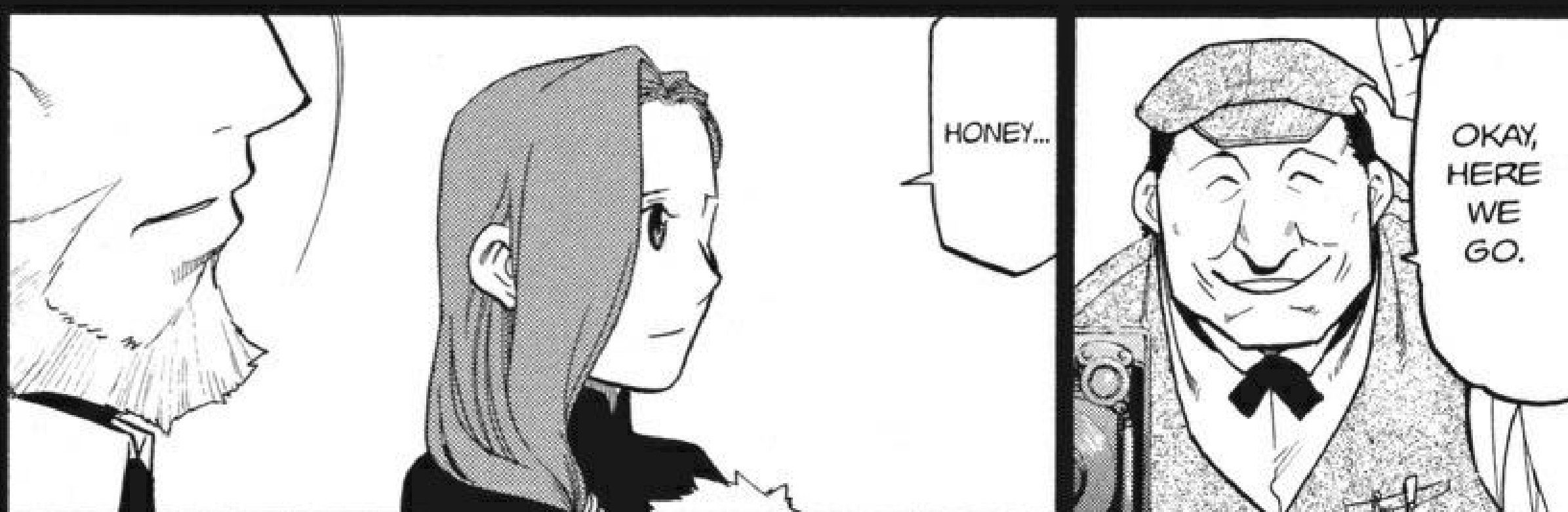
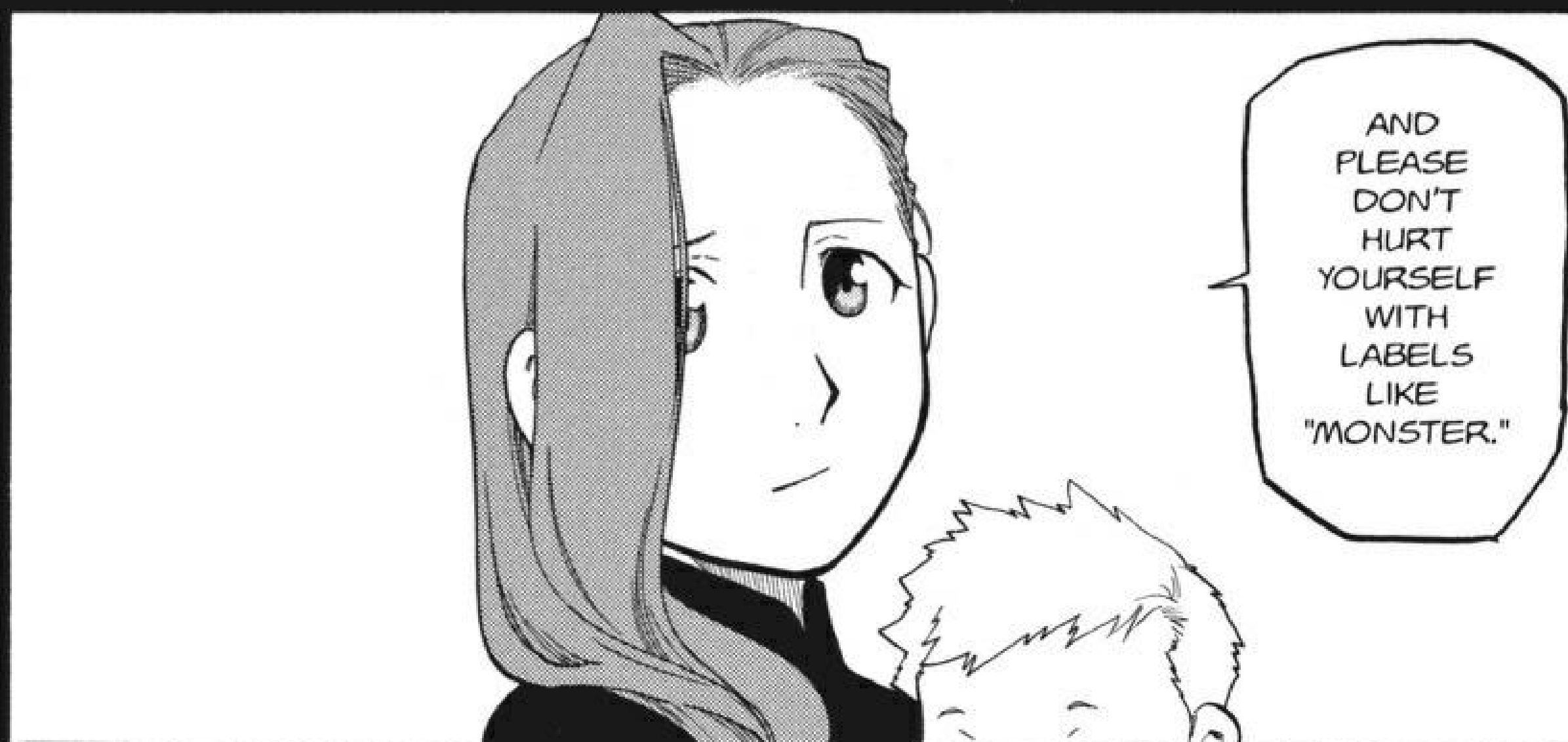
...NO MATTER
WHAT I
LOOK LIKE,
I WANT TO
ALWAYS BE
ABLE TO
SMILE AND
TAKE A
PHOTO
WITH ALL
OF US.

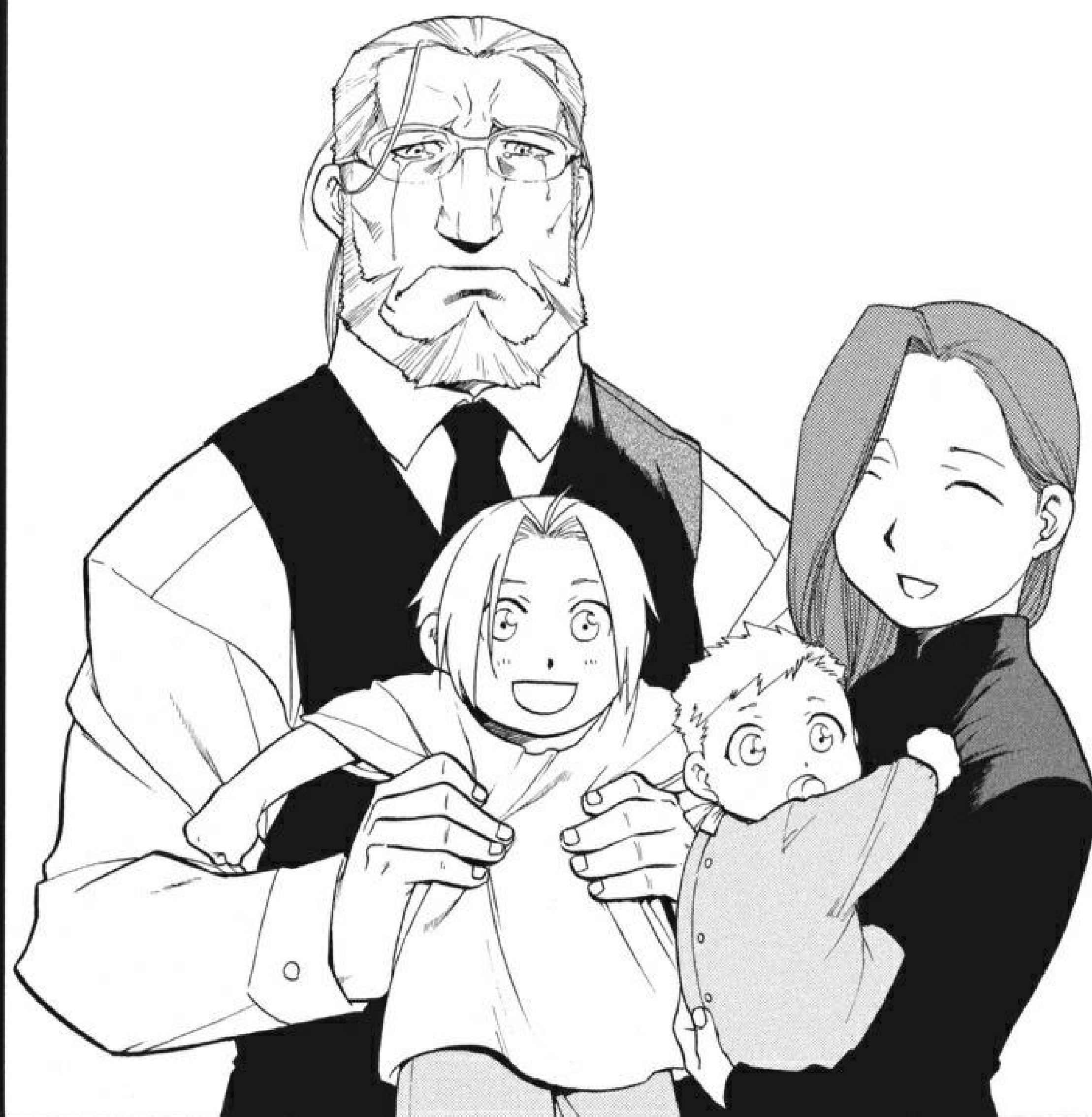
BUT...



DON'T
ISOLATE
YOURSELF
AND
BECOME
DISTANT.

SO
PLEASE...
STAY A
PART OF
THIS
FAMILY.





IT WAS
MY OWN
FOOLISHNESS
THAT
TRANSFORMED
MY BODY
INTO THIS.



...AND FULLY
INTENDED
TO LIVE ON
AS LONG
AS IT KEPT
GOING.



THAT'S
WHY I
ACCEPTED
MY
FATE...



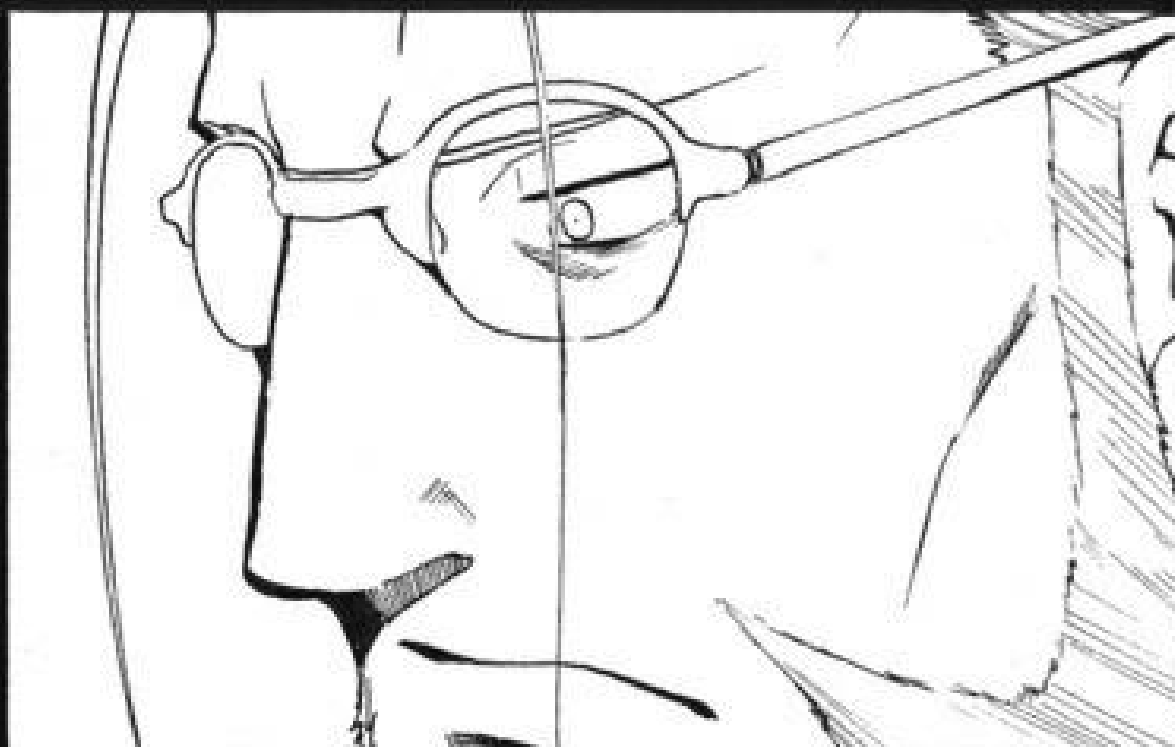
BUT
NOW,
THAT'S
ALL
CHANGED.



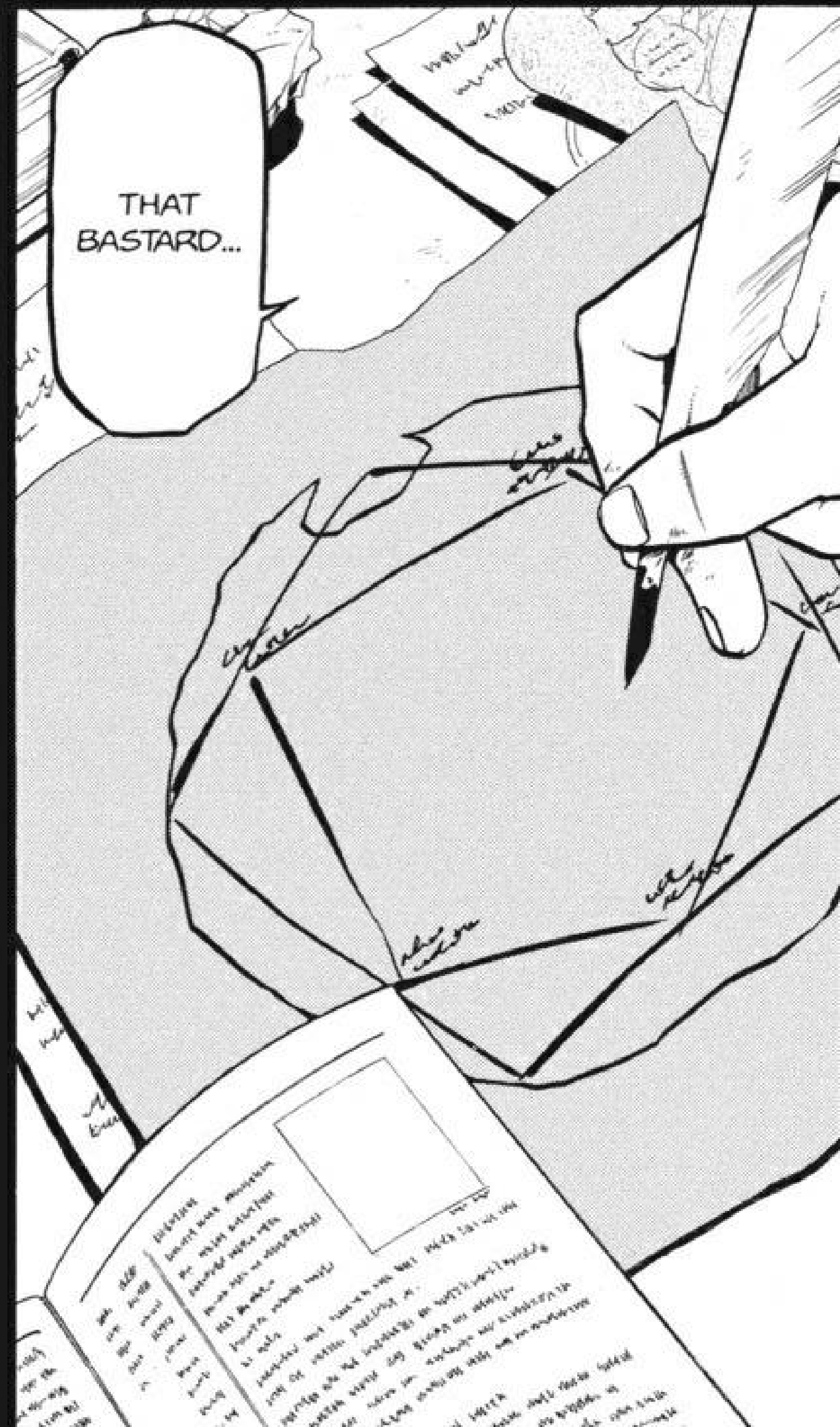
TRISHA
AND
THE
CHILDREN...

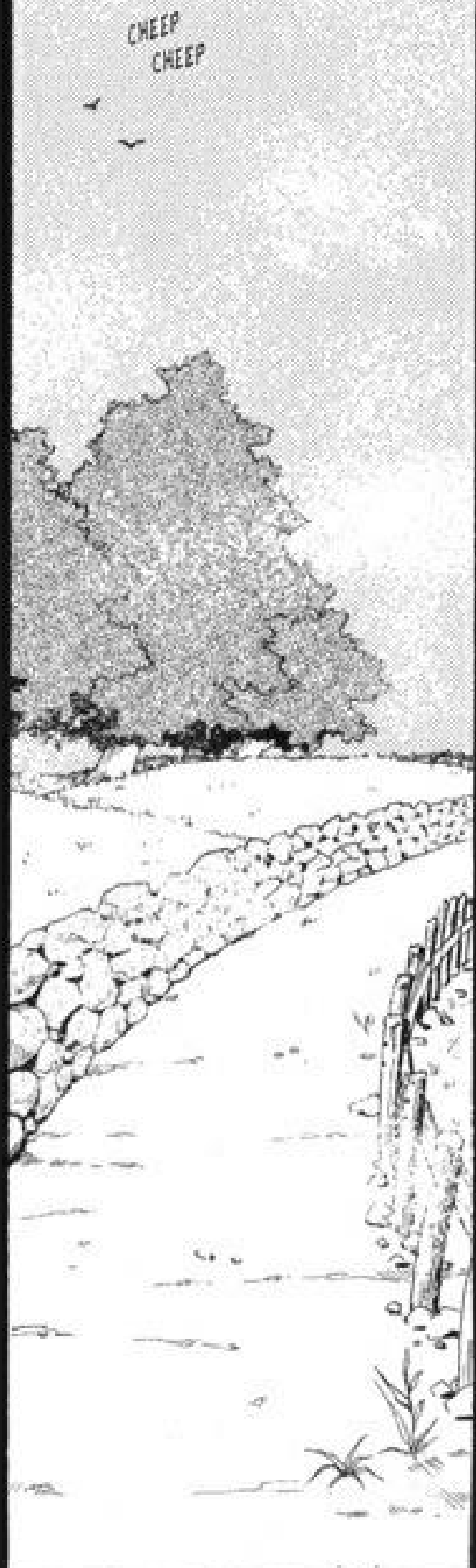


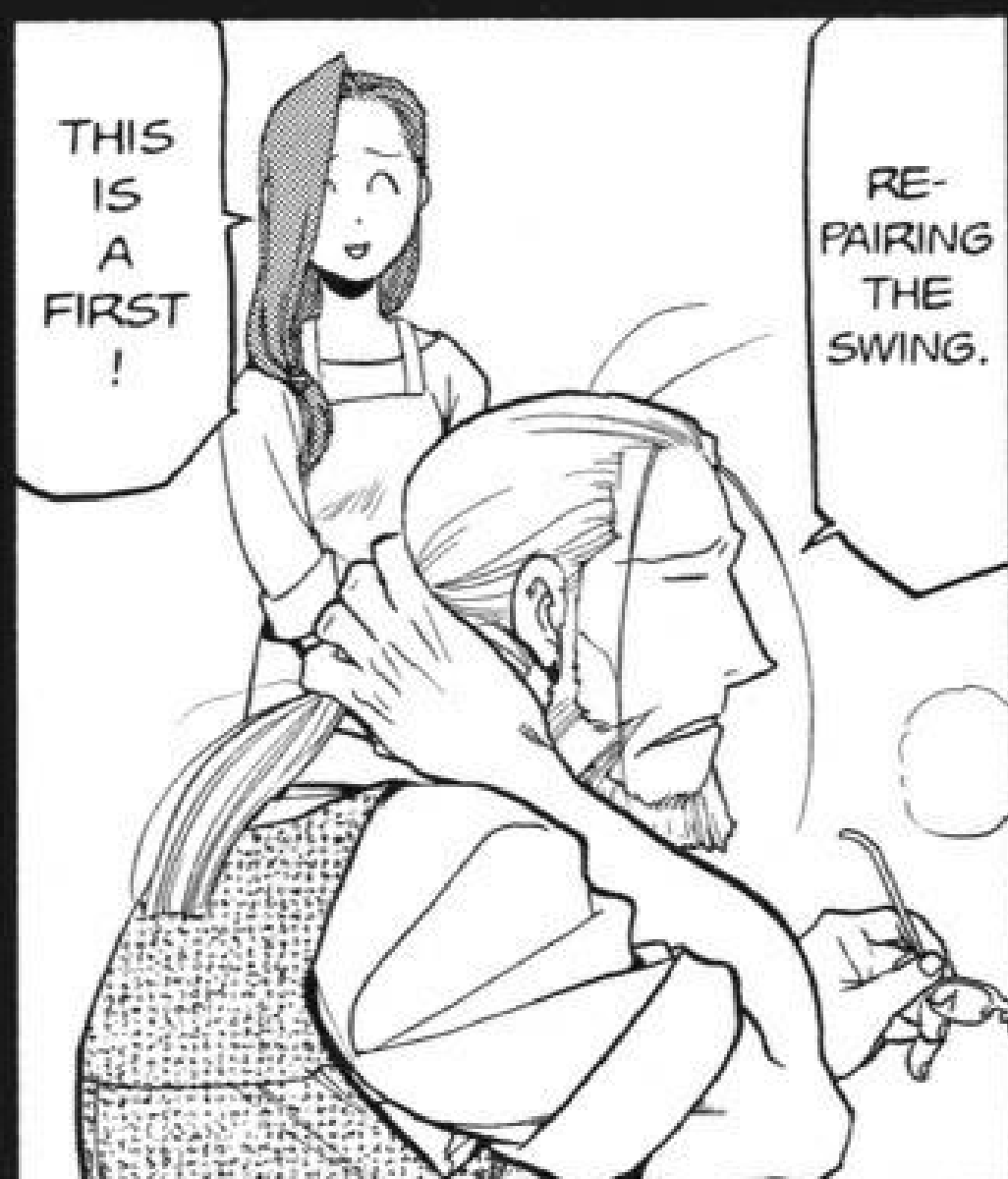
CRUMP



I WANT
TO
GROW
OLD
WITH
THEM...
AND
EVEN
DIE.







THIS IS A FIRST !

RE-PAIRING THE SWING.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?

OH MY !



TRI-SHA...

YES ?



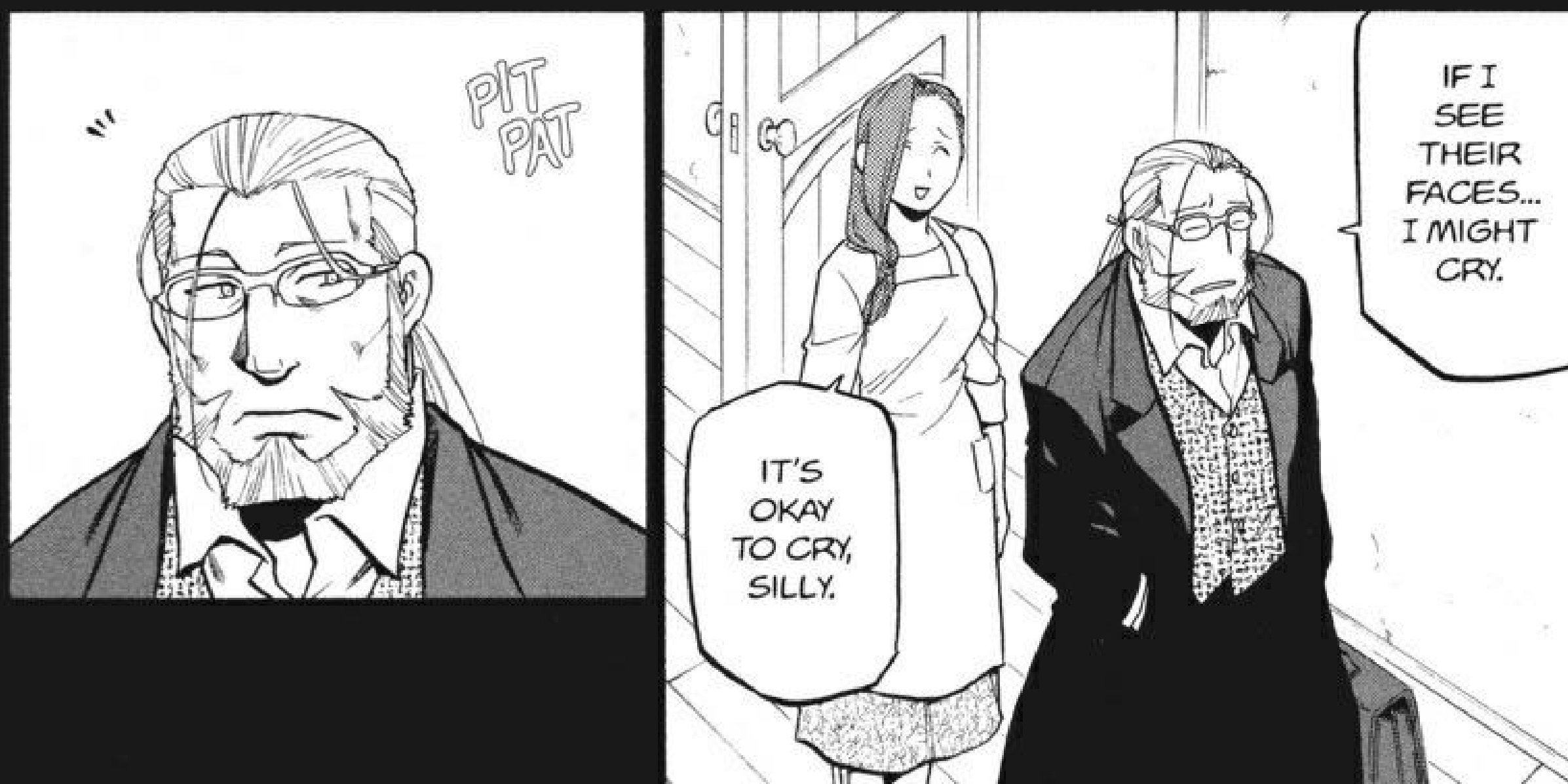
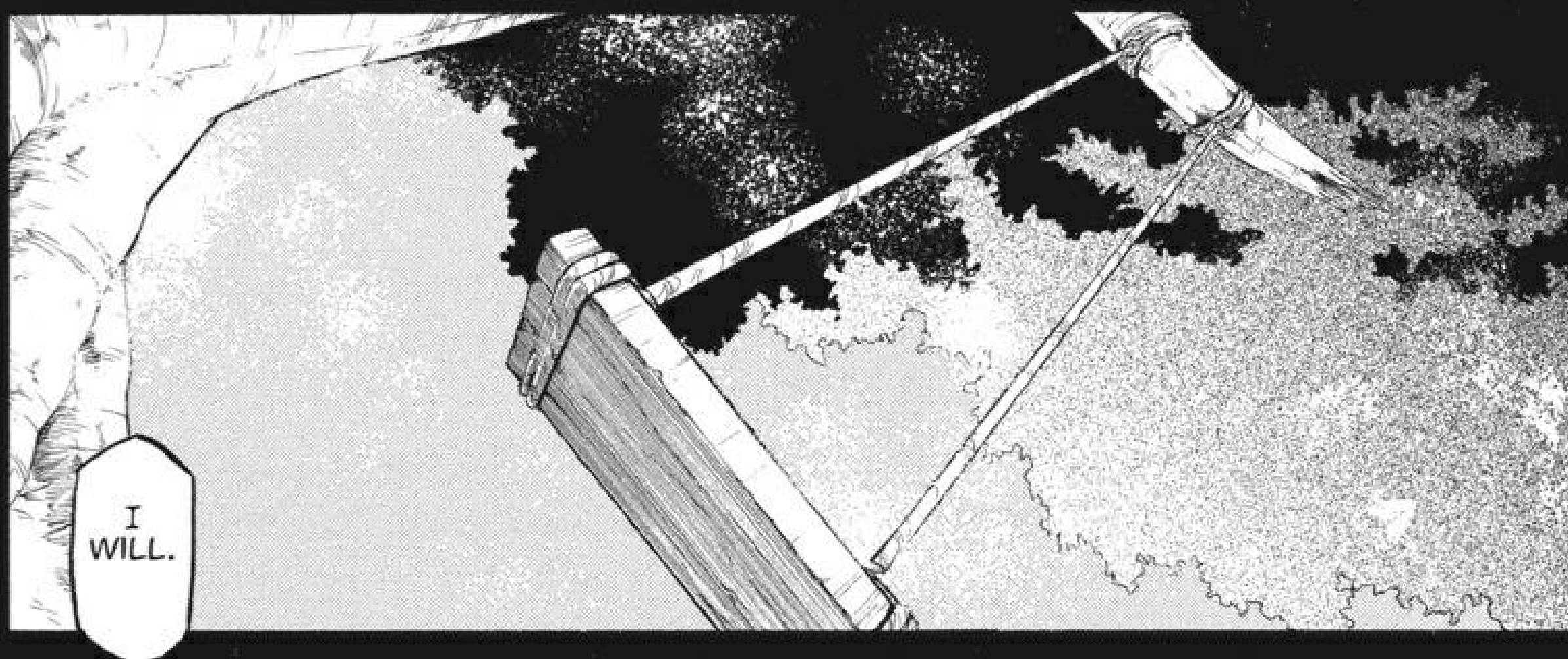
WELL, I'VE BEEN SO DEVOTED TO MY RESEARCH THAT I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING FOR THE KIDS LATELY.

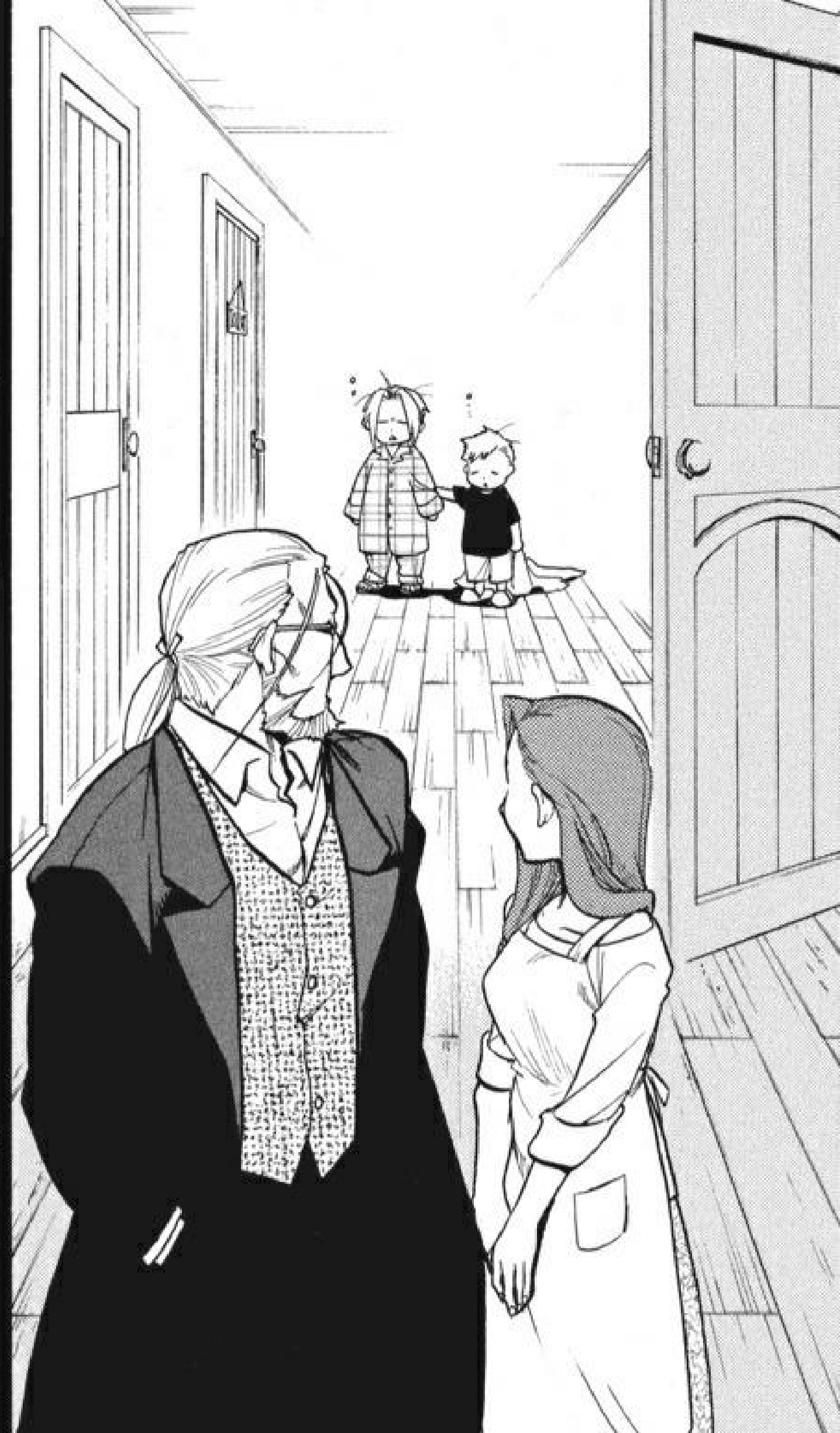
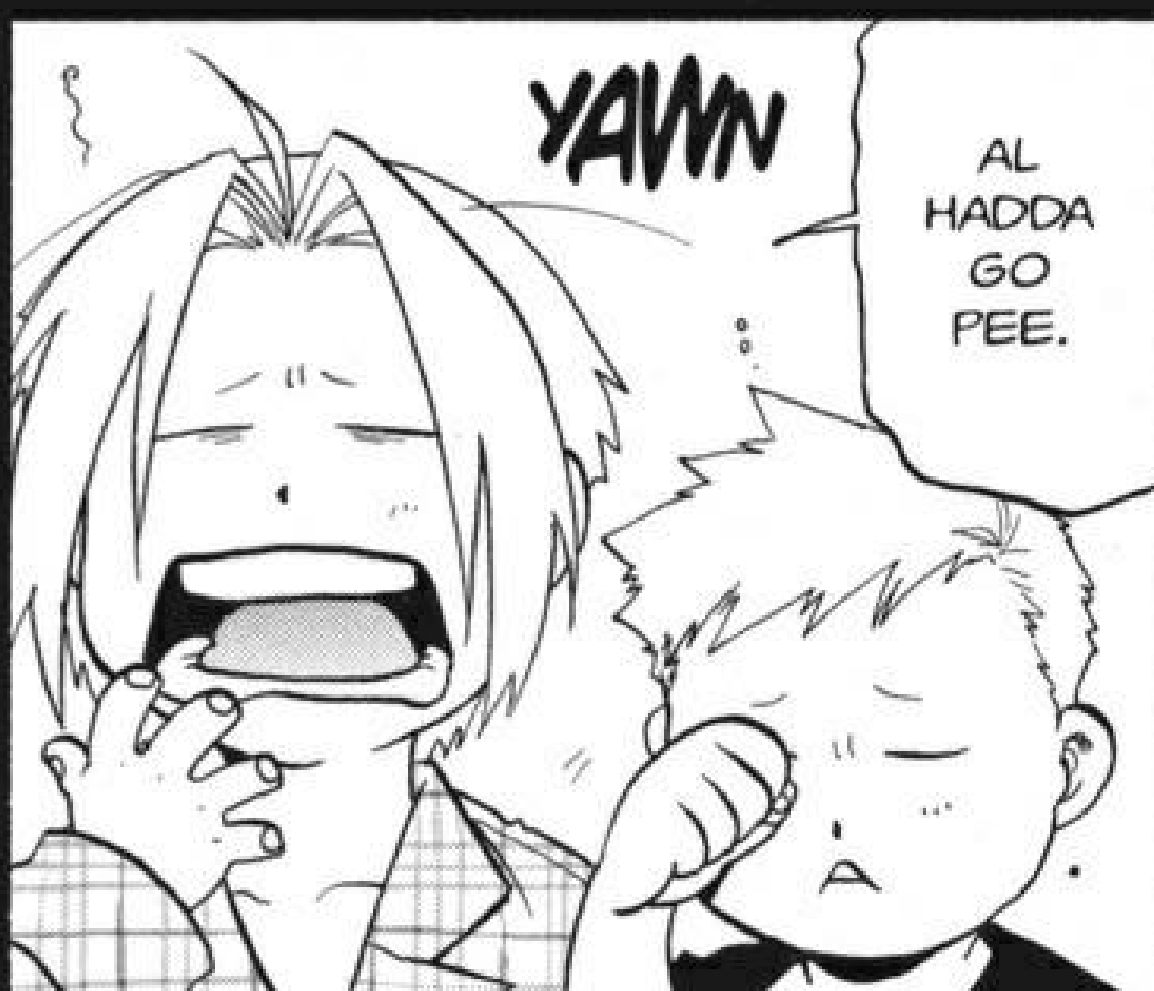
IT'S THE LEAST I COULD DO.

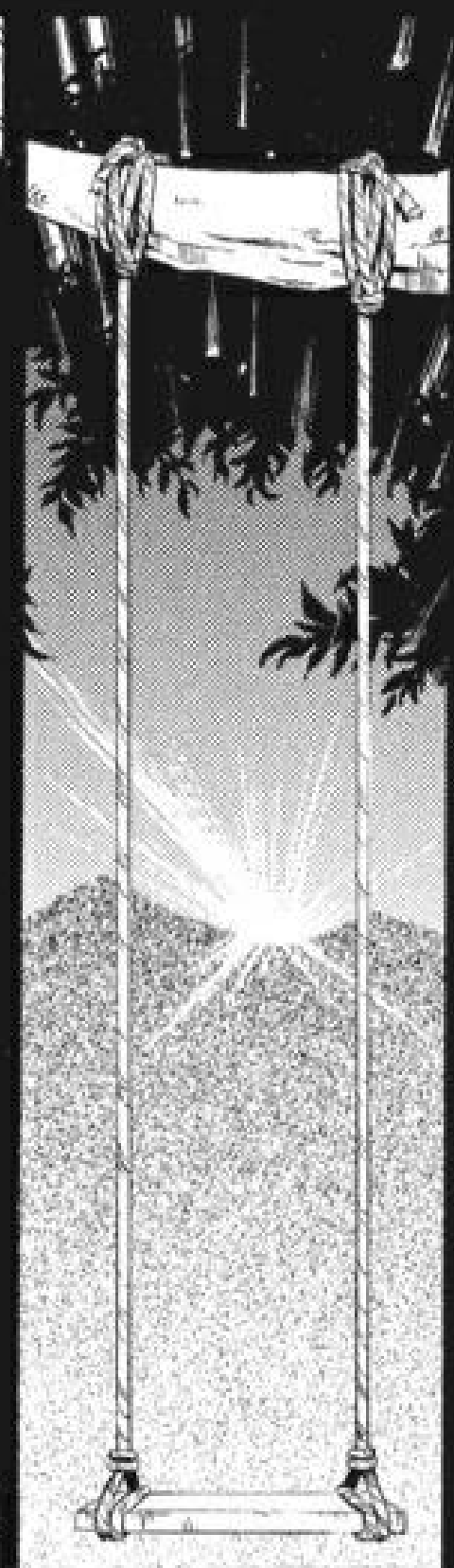
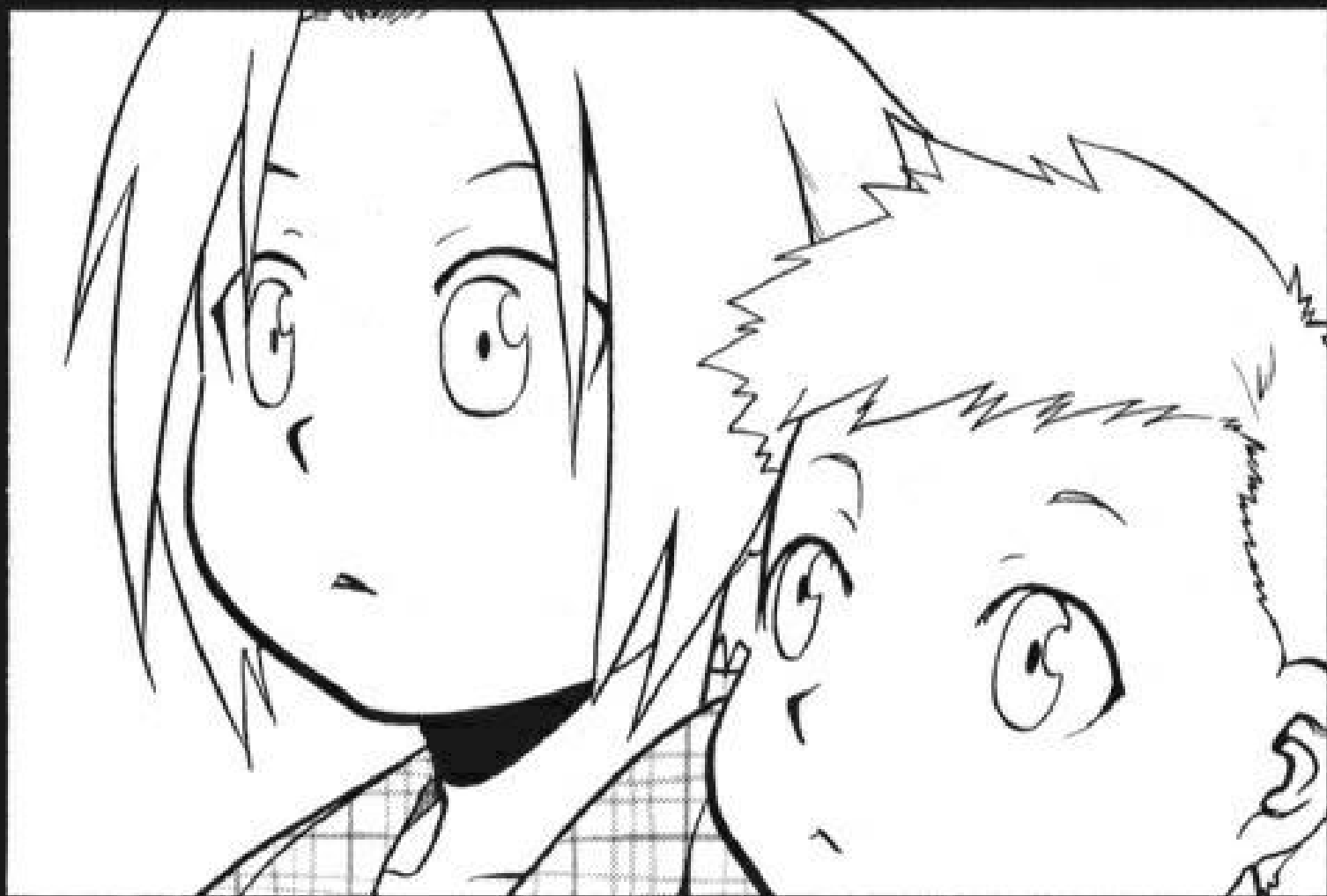


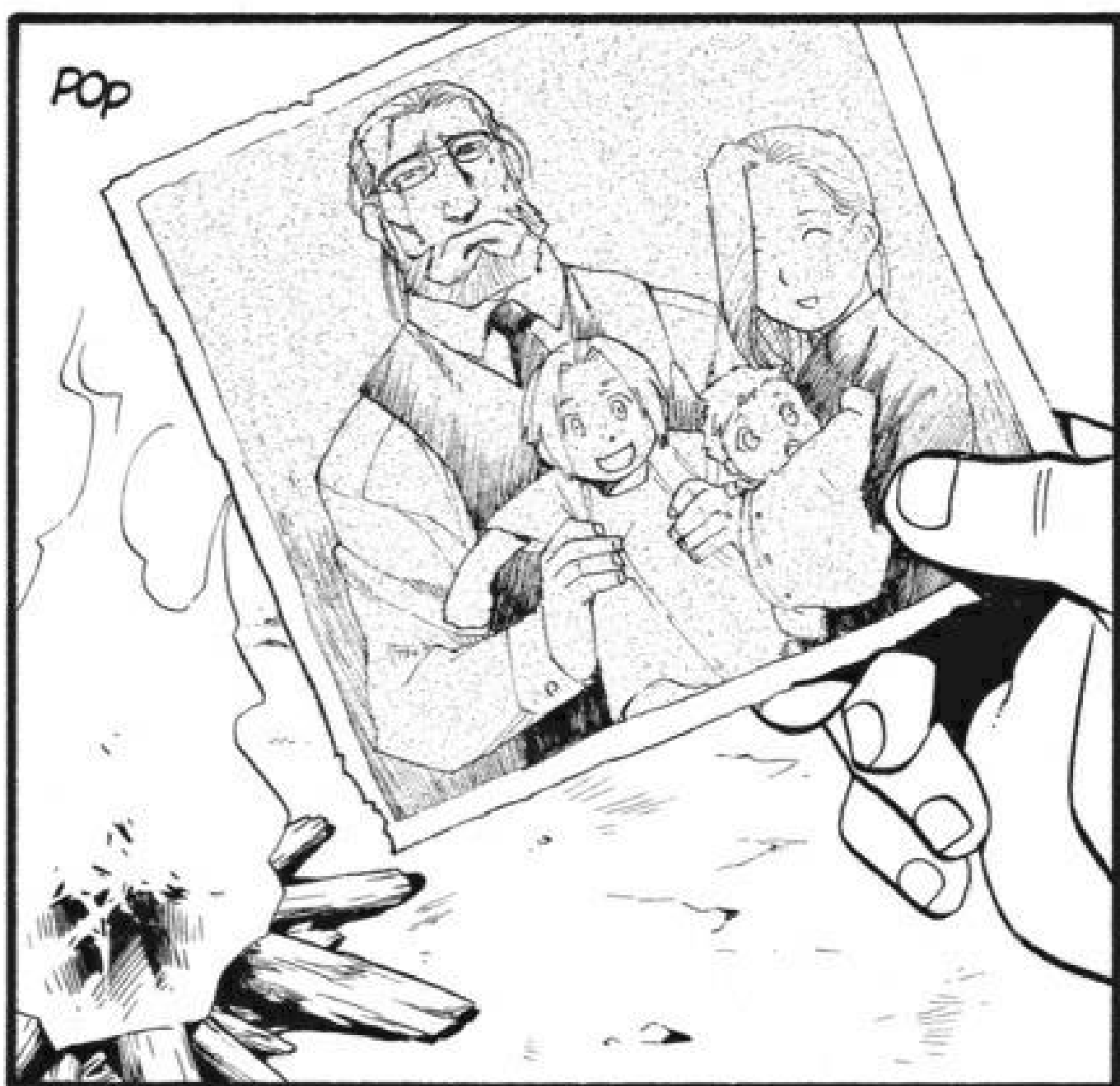
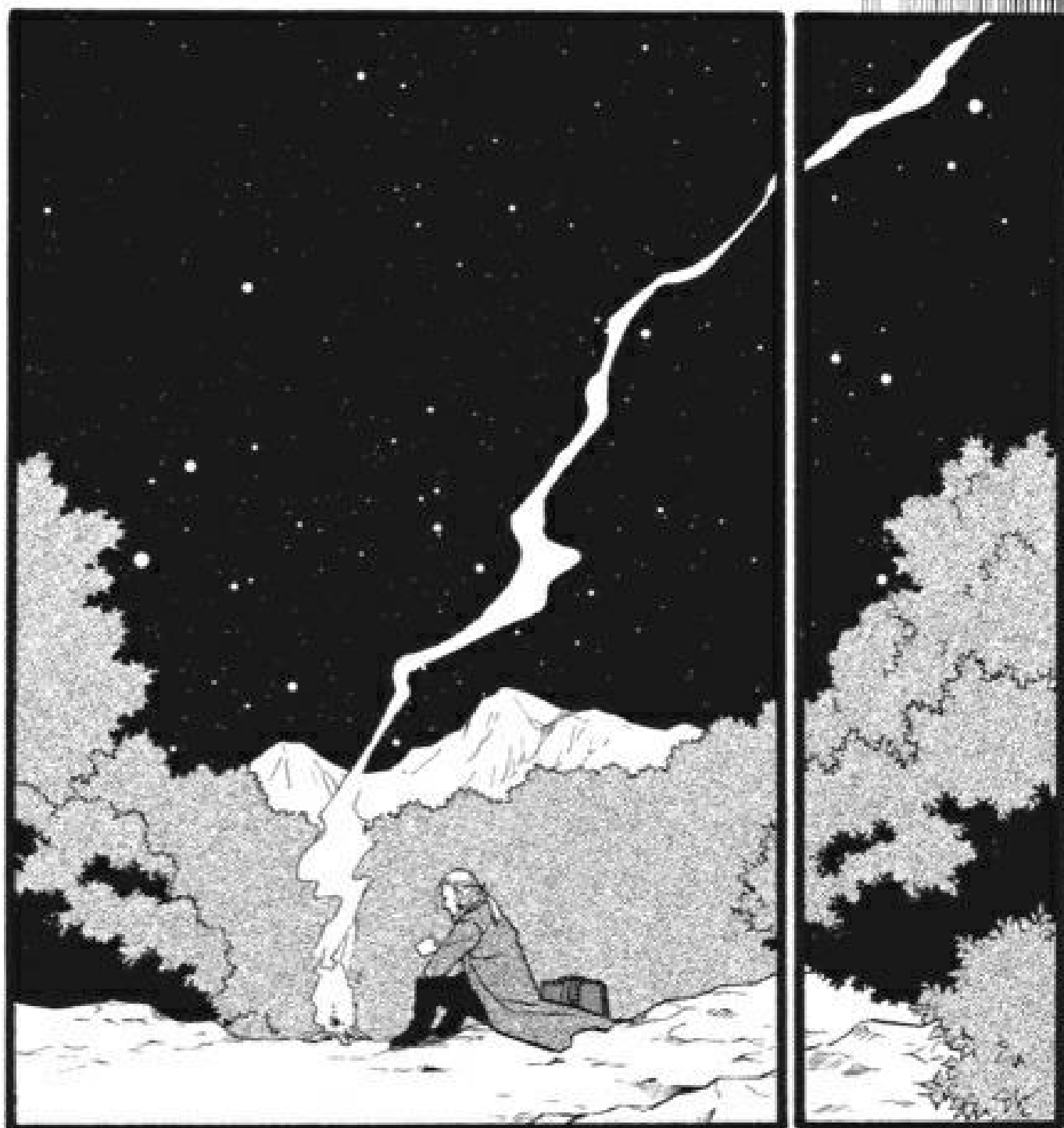
I'M...

...LEAVING.







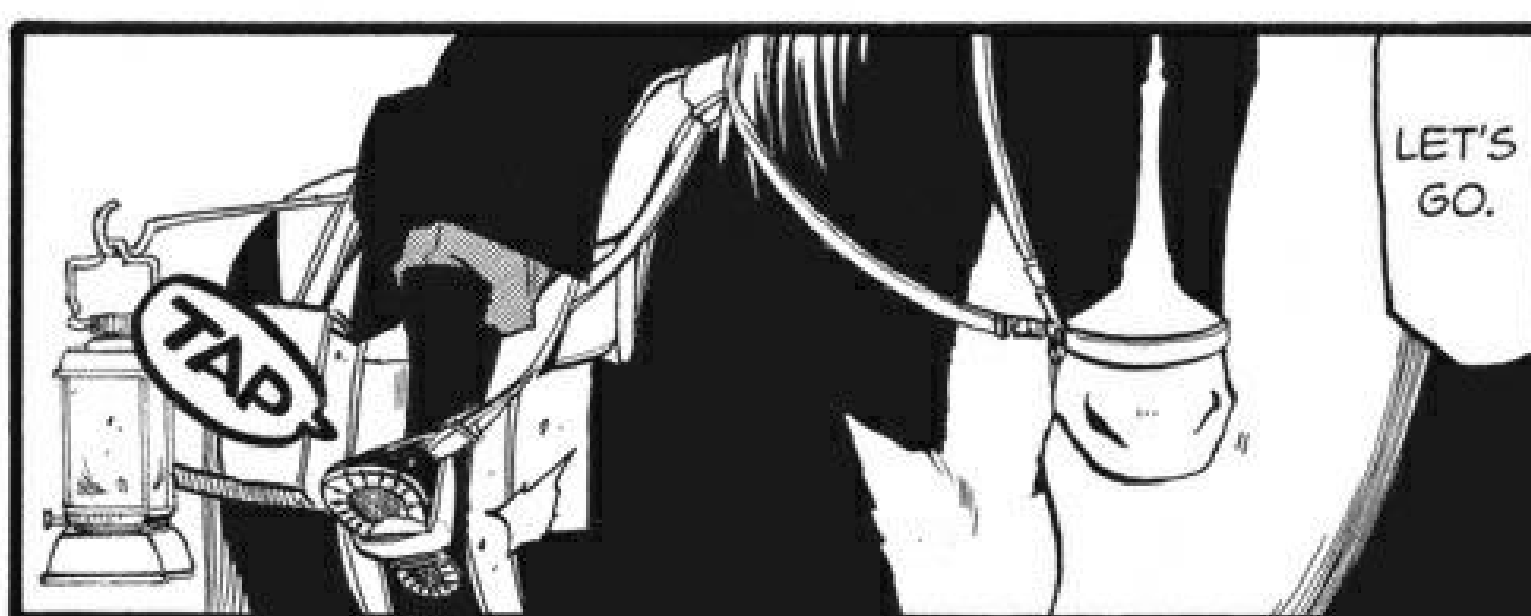


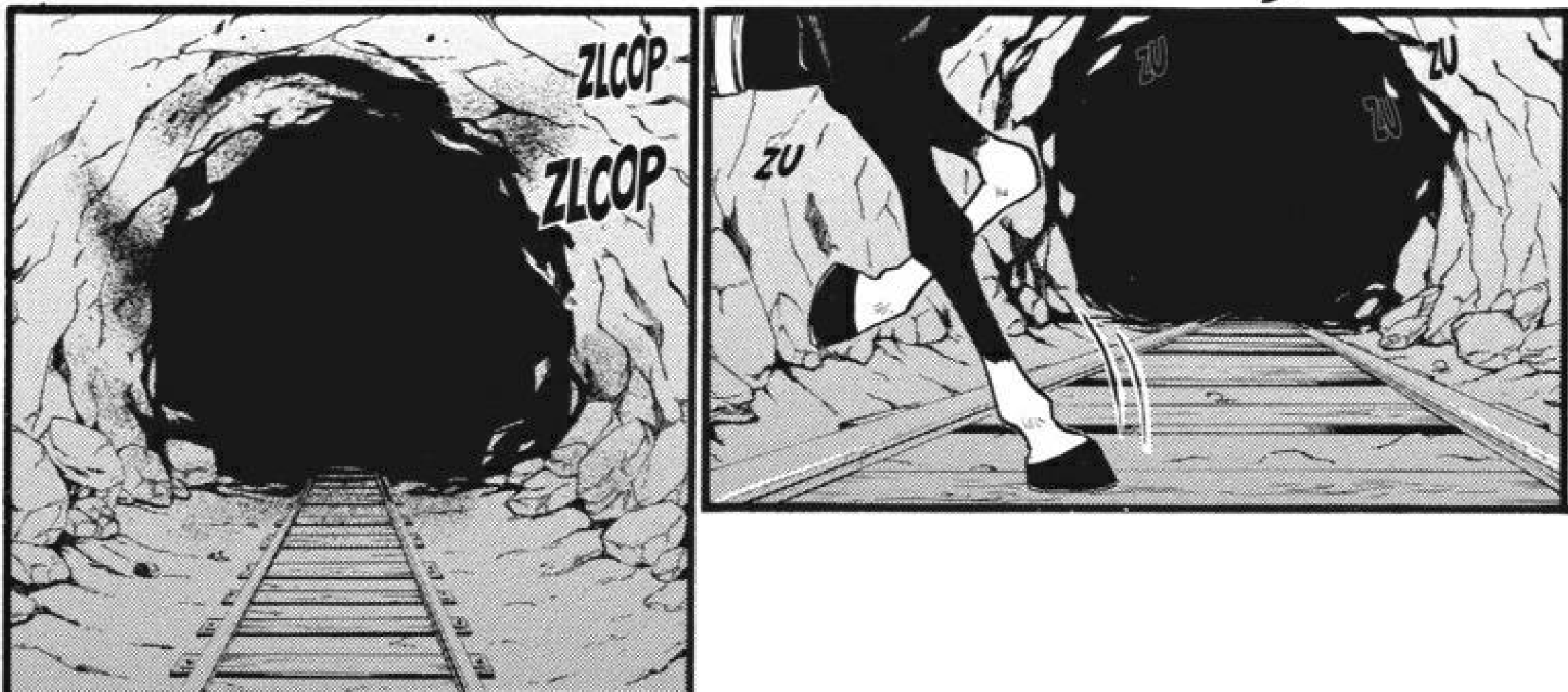
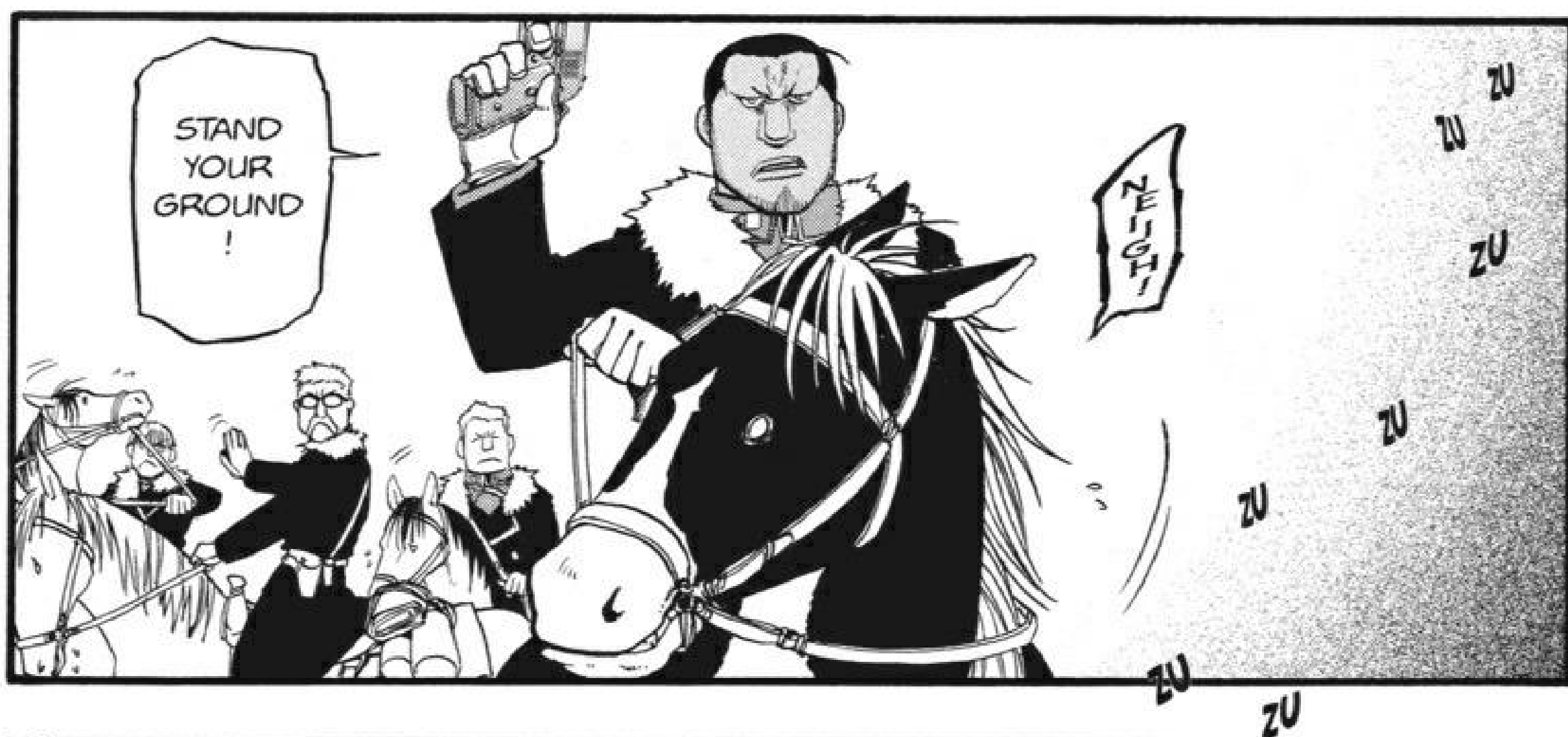
S
L

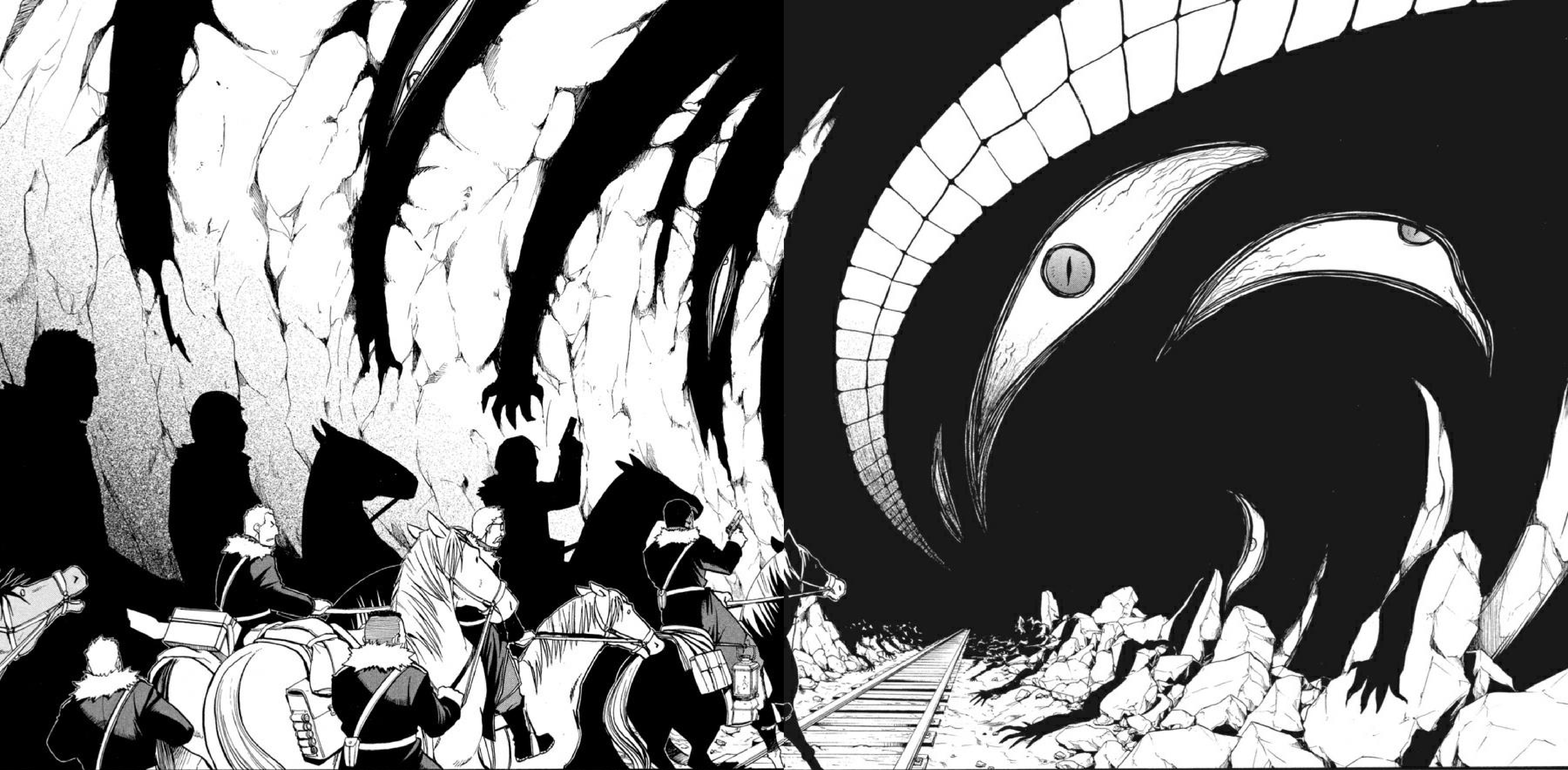


A
M

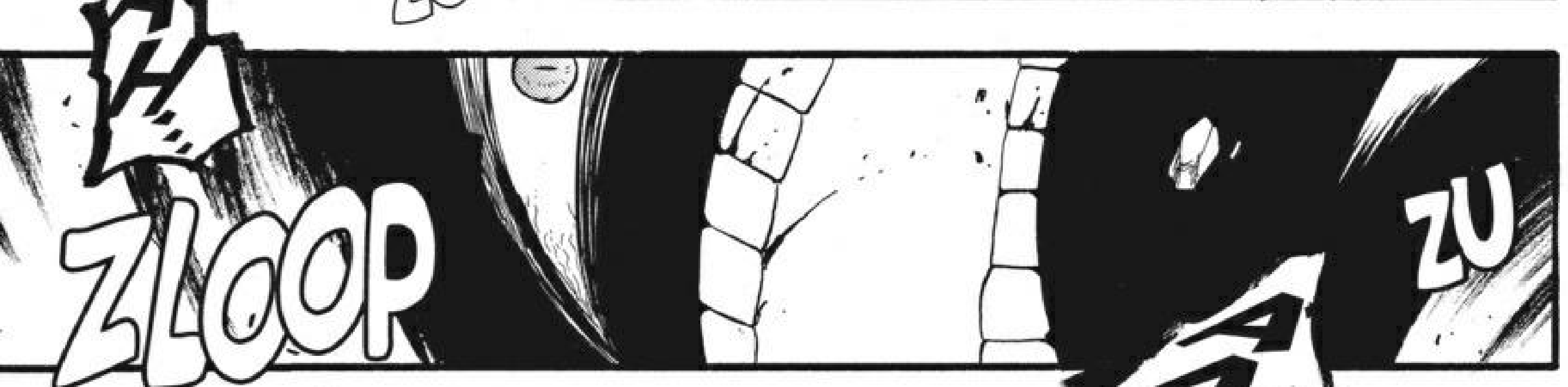
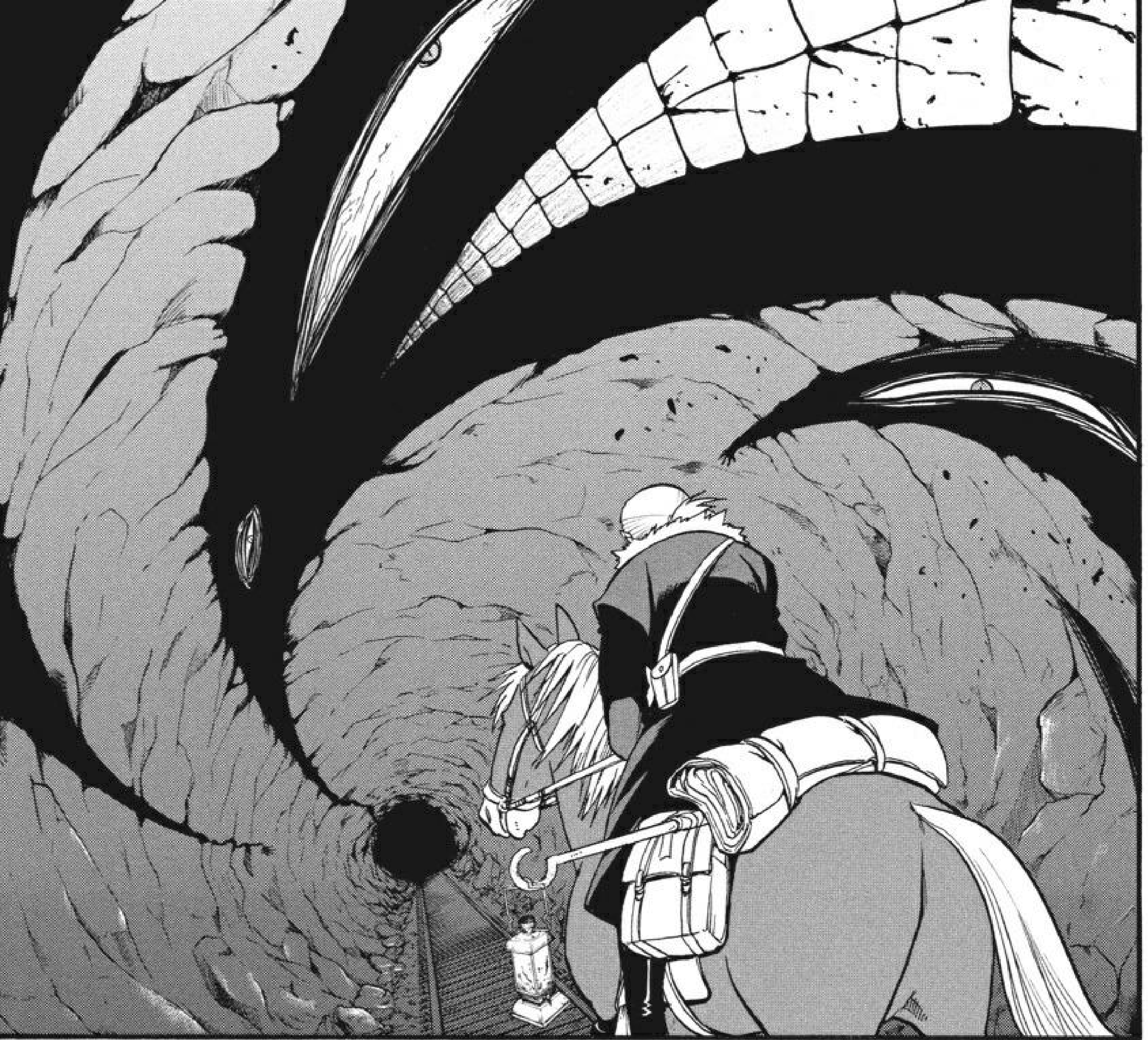


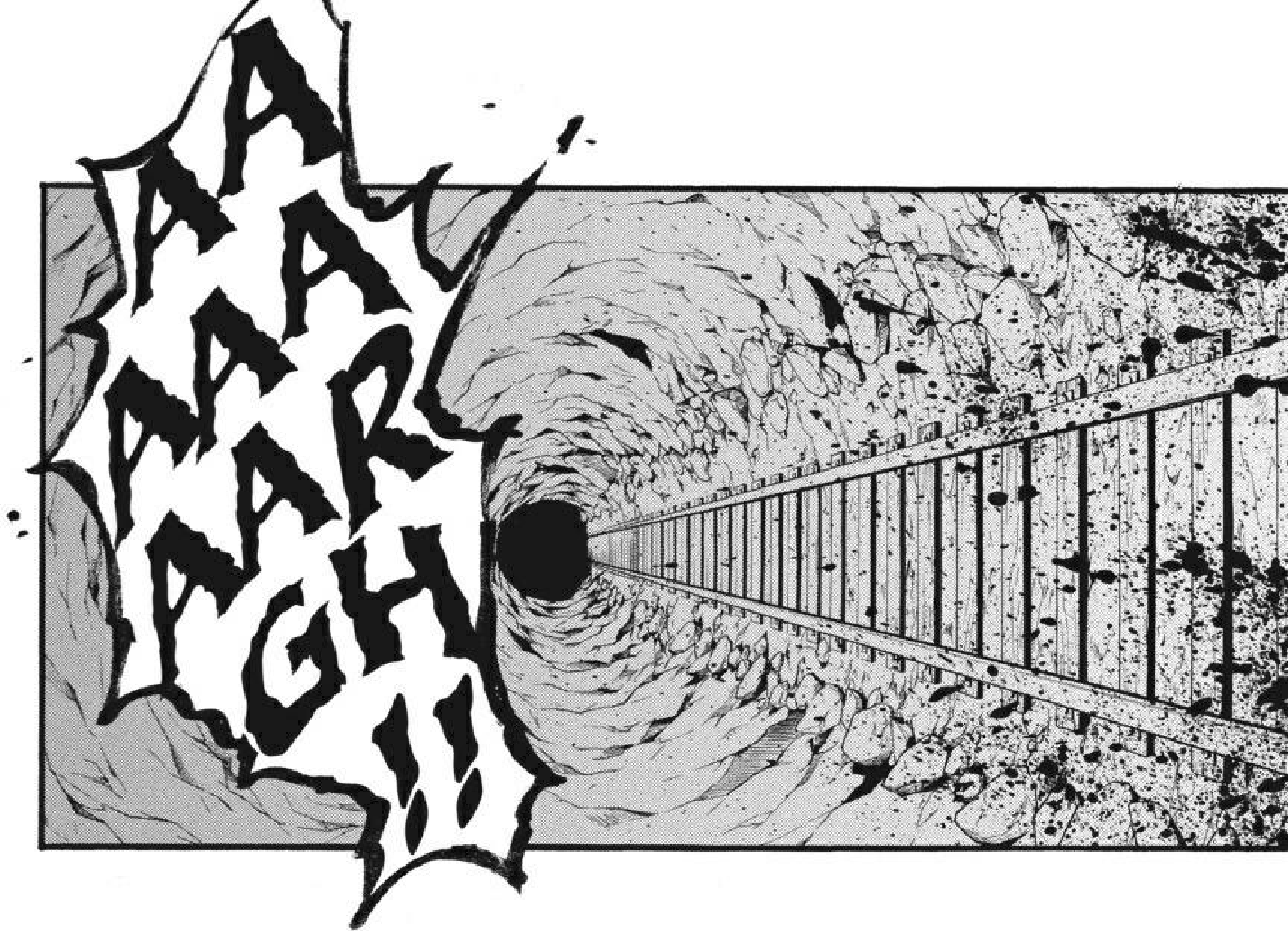


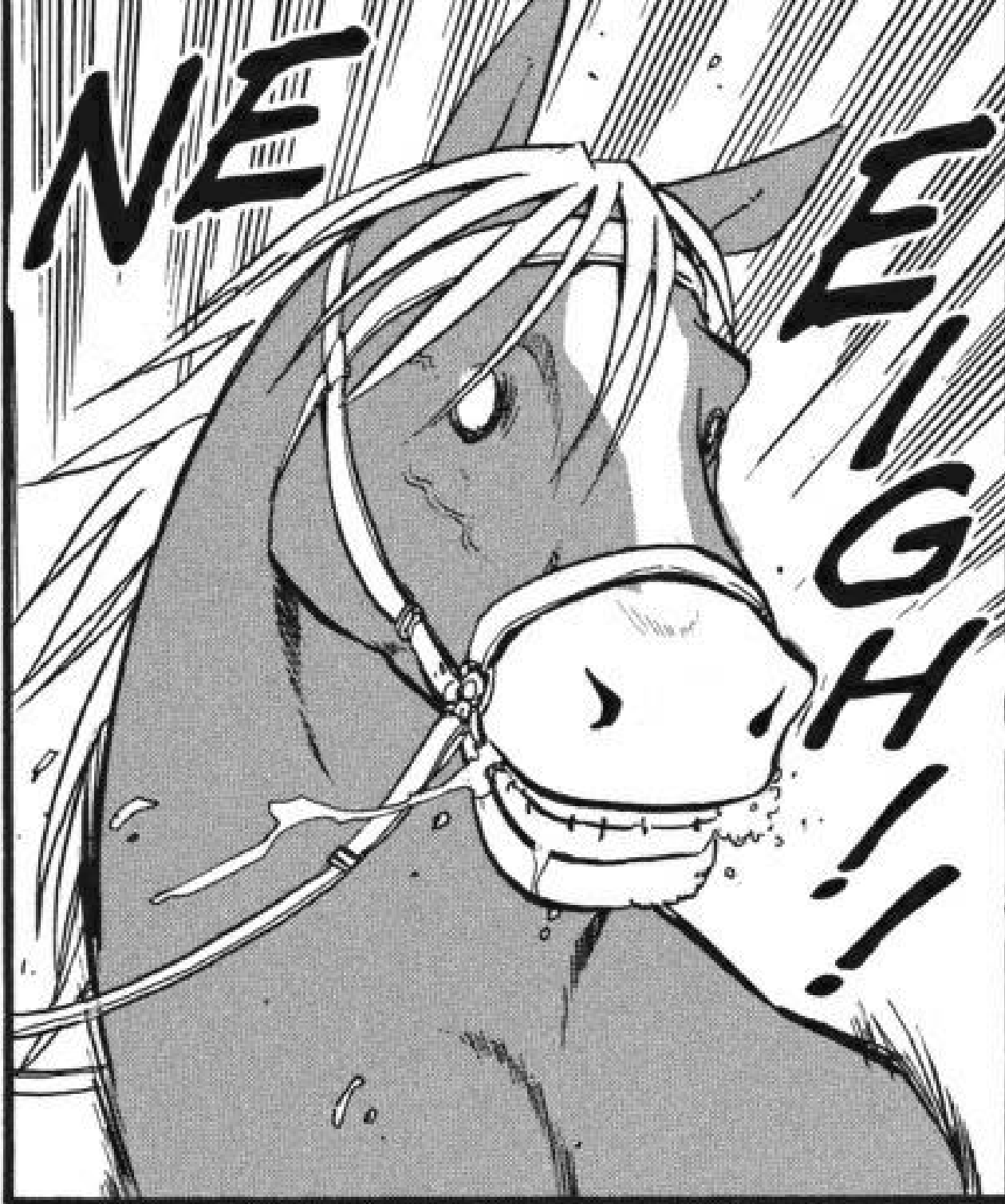














BUT...

RAVEN
TOOK
THE
BAIT...



HE
BOUGHT
IT
QUICKER
THAN I
EXPECTED.



OR IS
HE
REALLY
THAT
STUPID
?

IS
THIS
SOME
KIND
OF
PLOY...
?



I CAN
SEE
YOU'RE
TEMPT-
ED...

SO,
WHAT
DO
YOU
THINK
?

I'LL JUST
PLAY IT COOL
AND SEE
HOW MUCH
MORE HE
LETS SLIP...

THEY
NEITHER
DIE NOR
DECAY.



IMAGINE...
A
COMPLETELY
IMMORTAL
ARMY!



HM
?



HEH...

IT'S JUST
THAT...YOUR
QUESTION
IS SO
UNUSUAL.
I DON'T
KNOW
HOW TO
RESPOND.



EITHER
YOU'RE
IN OR
YOU
AREN'T.

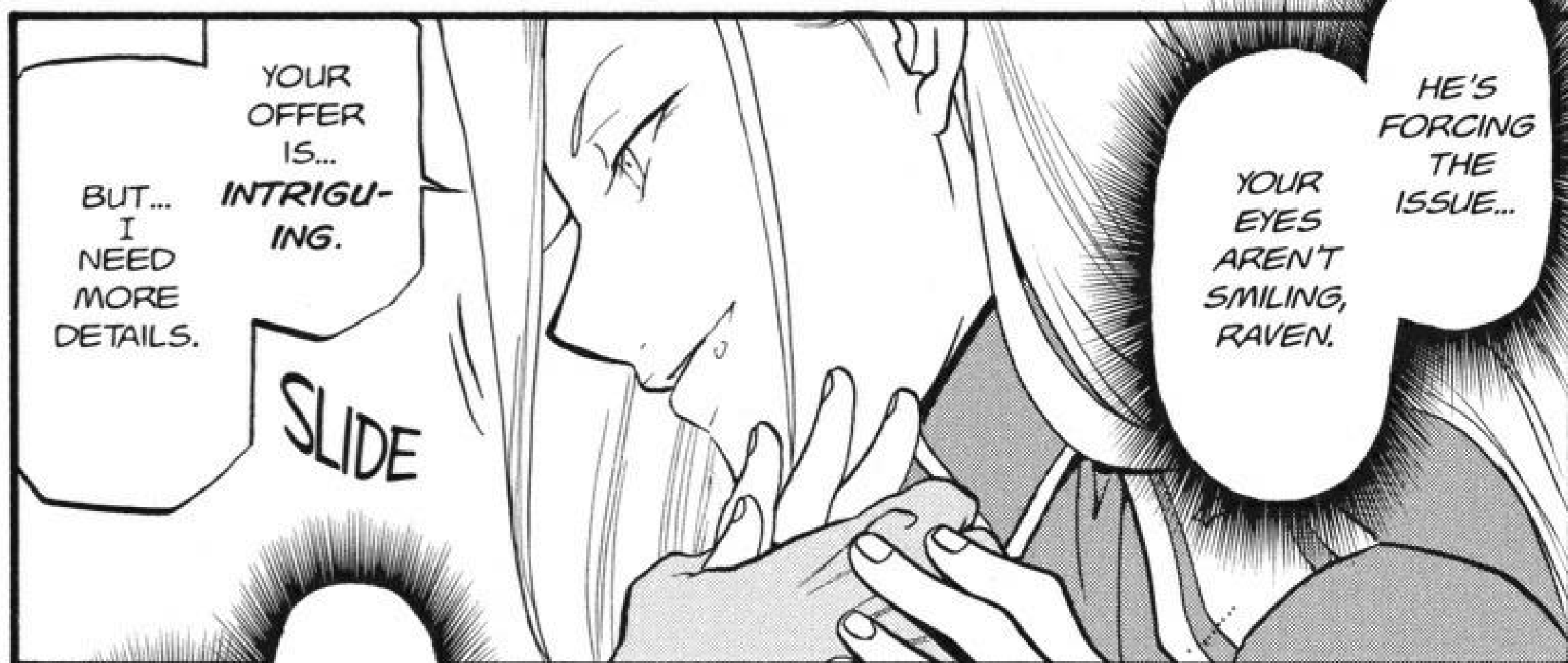
GRIN

THERE
ARE
ONLY
TWO
CHOICES.



I
WANT
TO
CUT
HIM...

...TO
SHREDS
!!



BUT...
I NEED
MORE
DETAILS.

YOUR
OFFER
IS...
**INTRIGU-
ING.**

SLIDE

YOUR
EYES
AREN'T
SMILING,
RAVEN.

HE'S
FORCING
THE
ISSUE...



...IS
HE
RUNNING
OUT
OF
TIME?

HE'S
IN
A
RUSH.

AS APPEALING AS YOUR
SUGGESTION SOUNDS,
I MUST CONSIDER THE
WELFARE OF MY MEN.
WHEN THE DAY COMES
THAT IMMORTALITY IS NO
LONGER A DREAM, WILL
ALL THE SOLDIERS AT
FORT BRIGGS BENEFIT,
OR JUST ME?



GRIN

GRIN

IF I GO ALONG
WITH THIS, THEY'LL
FORCE ME TO
AID THEM IN THEIR
UNWHOLESOME
SCHEMES HERE
AT BRIGGS...



WHEN
THAT
DAY
COMES...

YES.



...AND IF
I DON'T
GO ALONG,
THEY'LL HAVE
NO MORE
USE FOR
ME AND
I'LL MOST
LIKELY BE
DEMOTED.

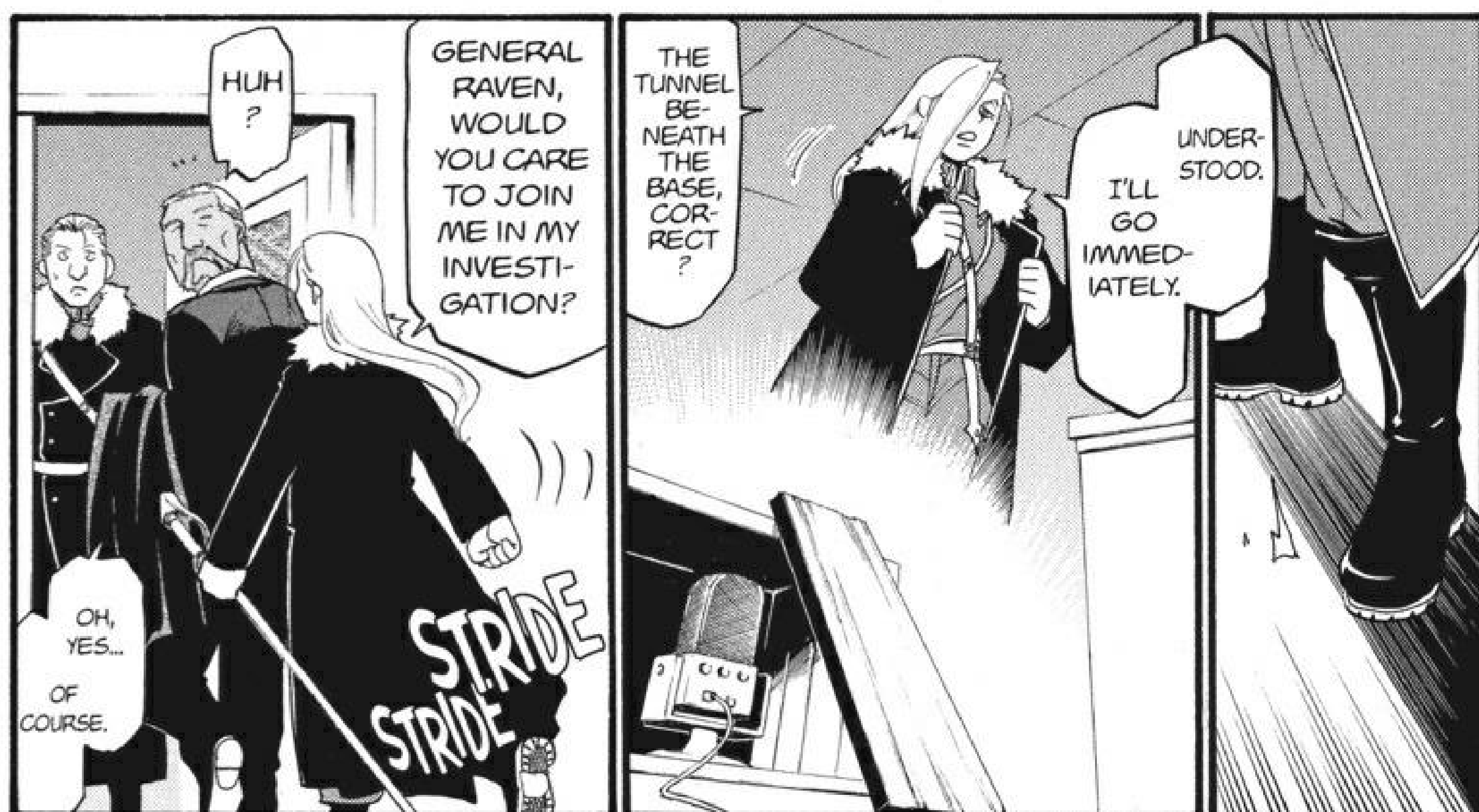
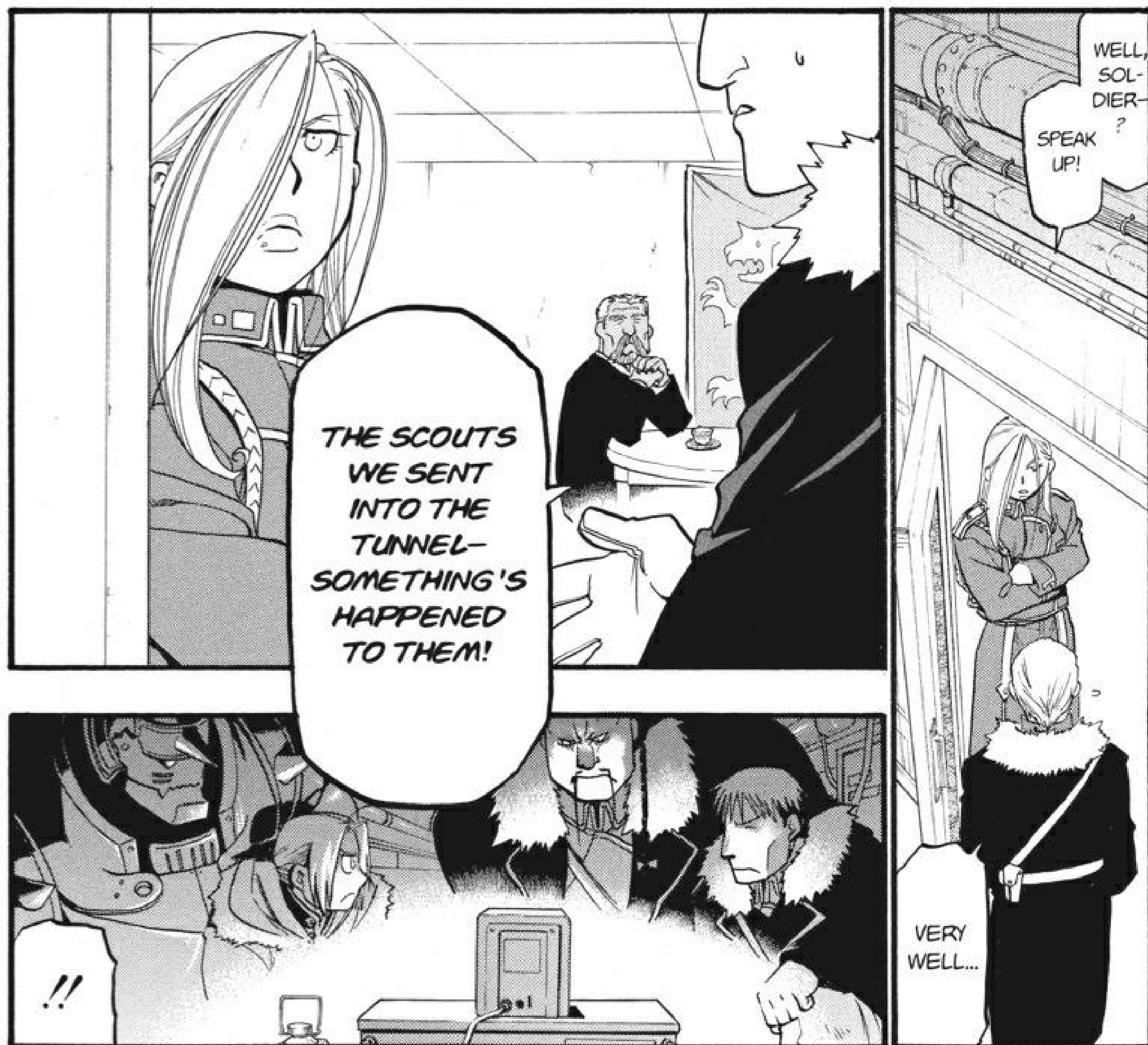
THEY
MUST HAVE
PLENTY
OF OTHER
PAWNS
WHO COULD
TAKE MY
PLACE.

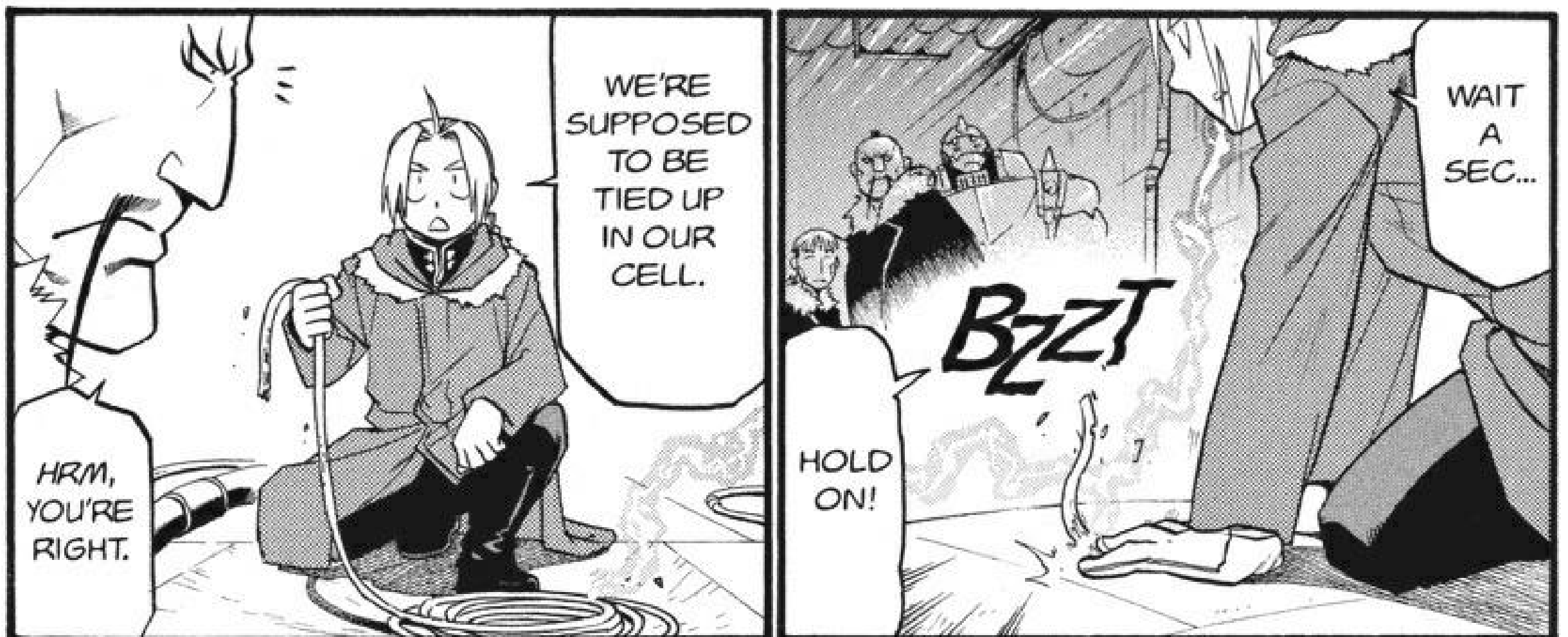


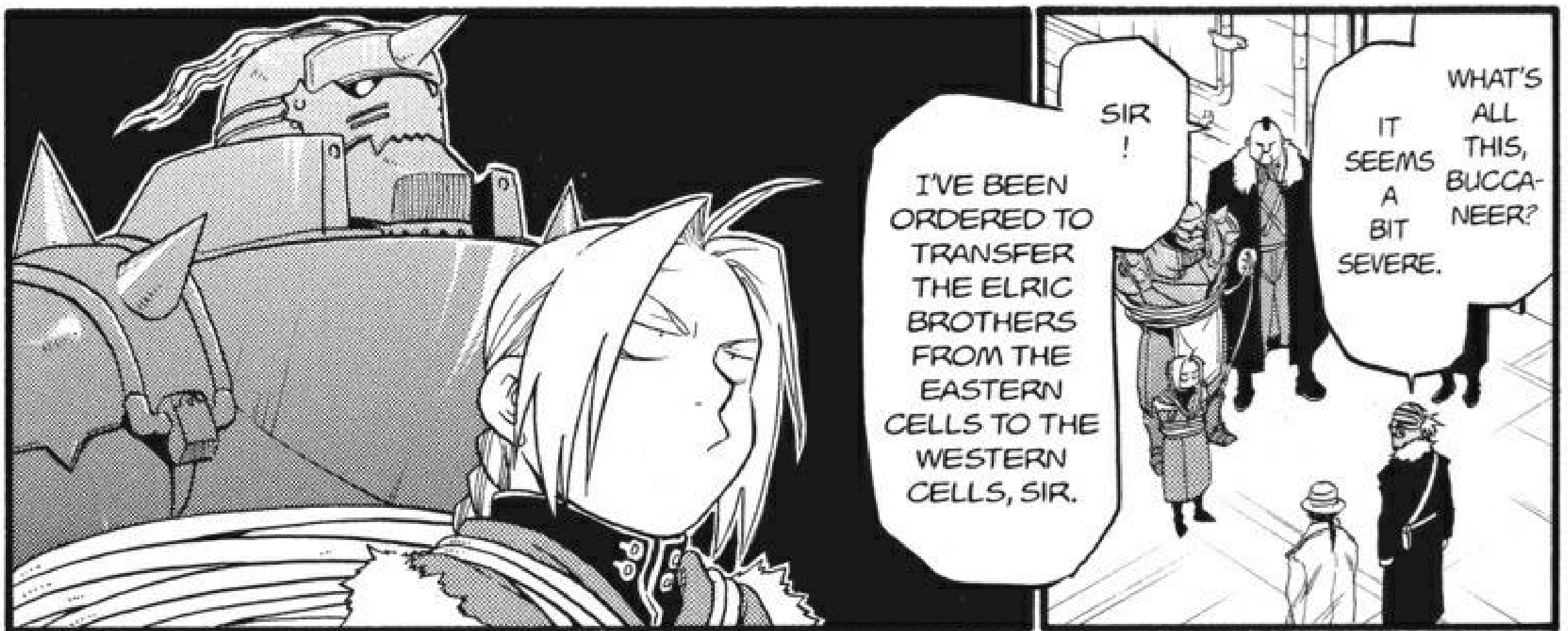
MEANING
HE WON'T
MAKE ANY
GUARANTEES
UNTIL
THAT DAY
COMES.

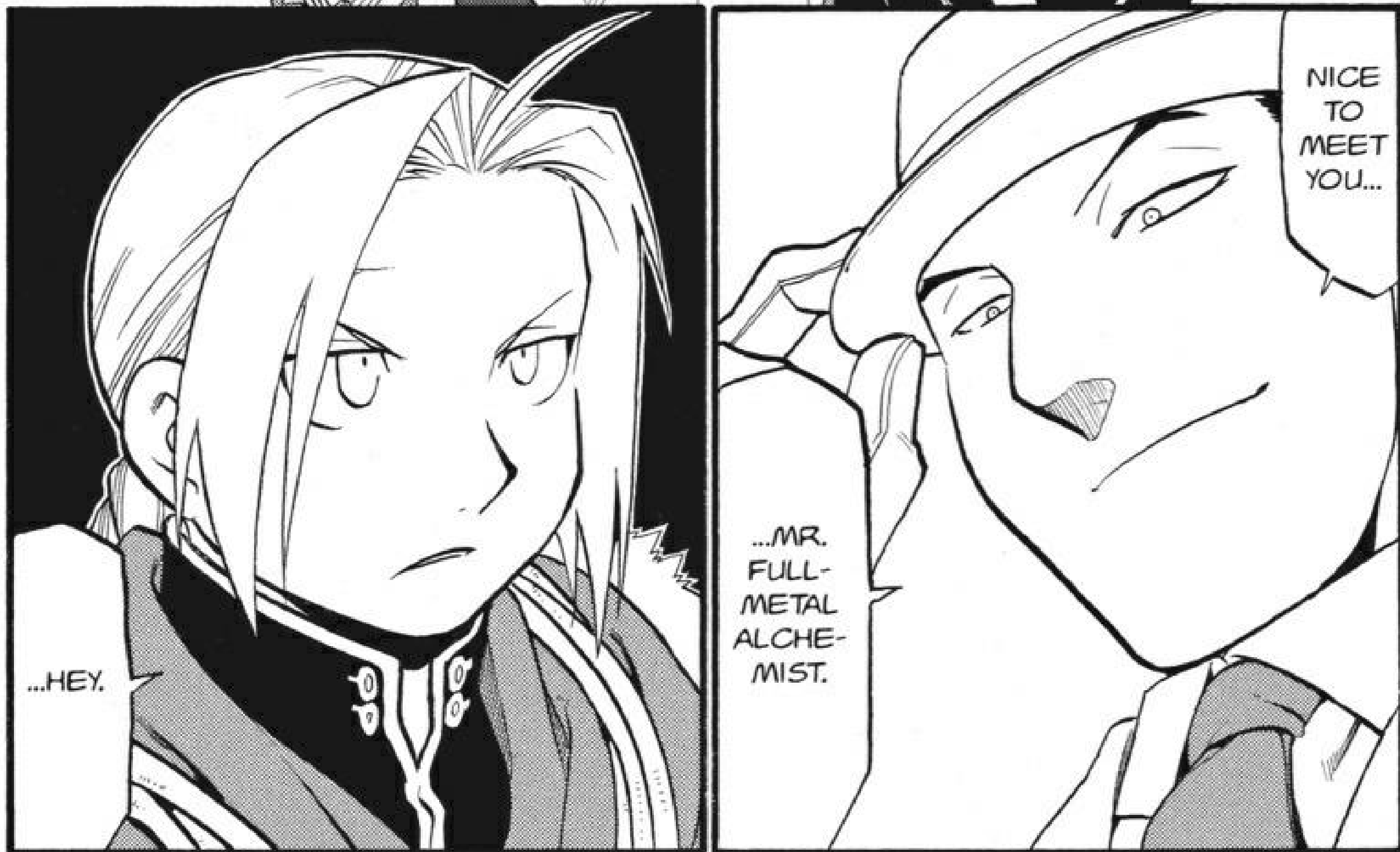
WON-
DER-
FUL.

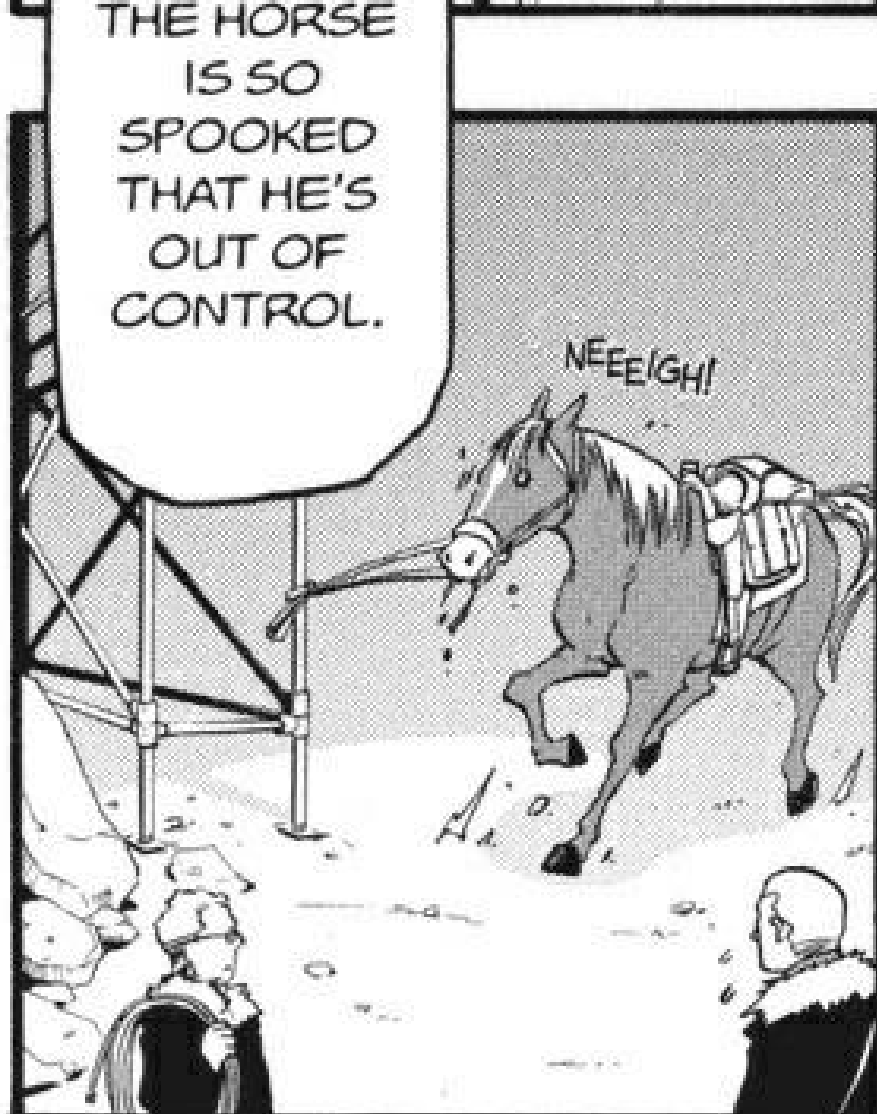
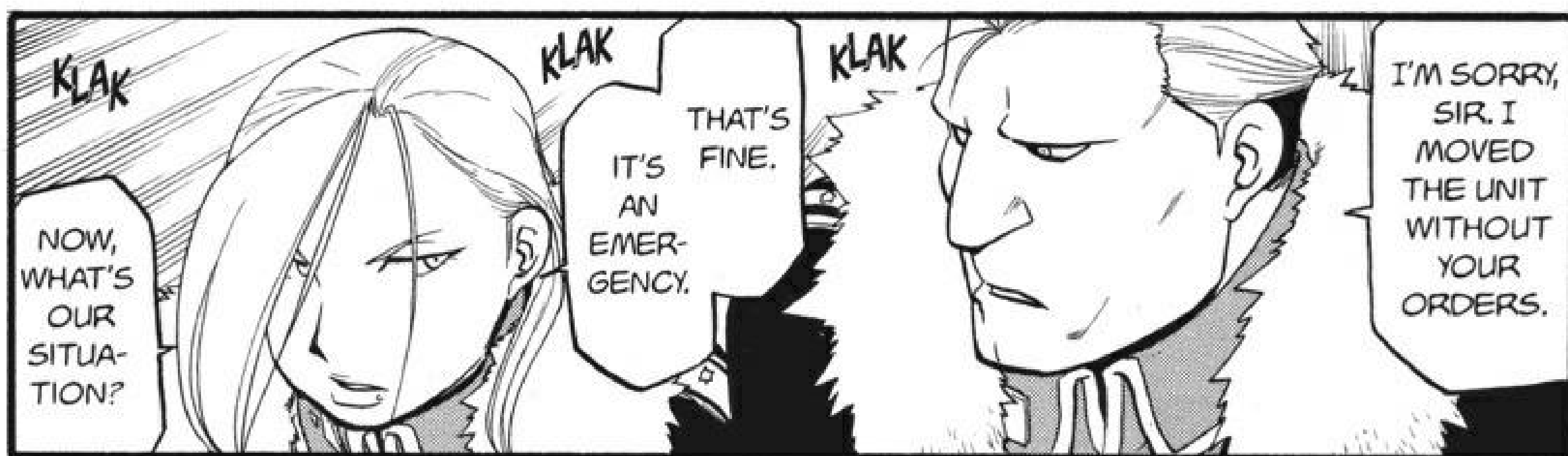














WE COULD PUT TOGETHER ANOTHER SQUAD TO INVESTIGATE, BUT FOR ALL WE KNOW, WE'D BE SENDING THEM INTO A DEATHTRAP.

IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY, SIR.



WHAT KIND OF A THREAT ARE WE DEALING WITH, HENSCHEL?



THIS WON'T DO AT ALL.

A HOLE THIS DANGEROUS MUST BE CLOSED UP.



THIS WON'T DO, MAJOR GENERAL ARMSTRONG.



...

GWON

GWON

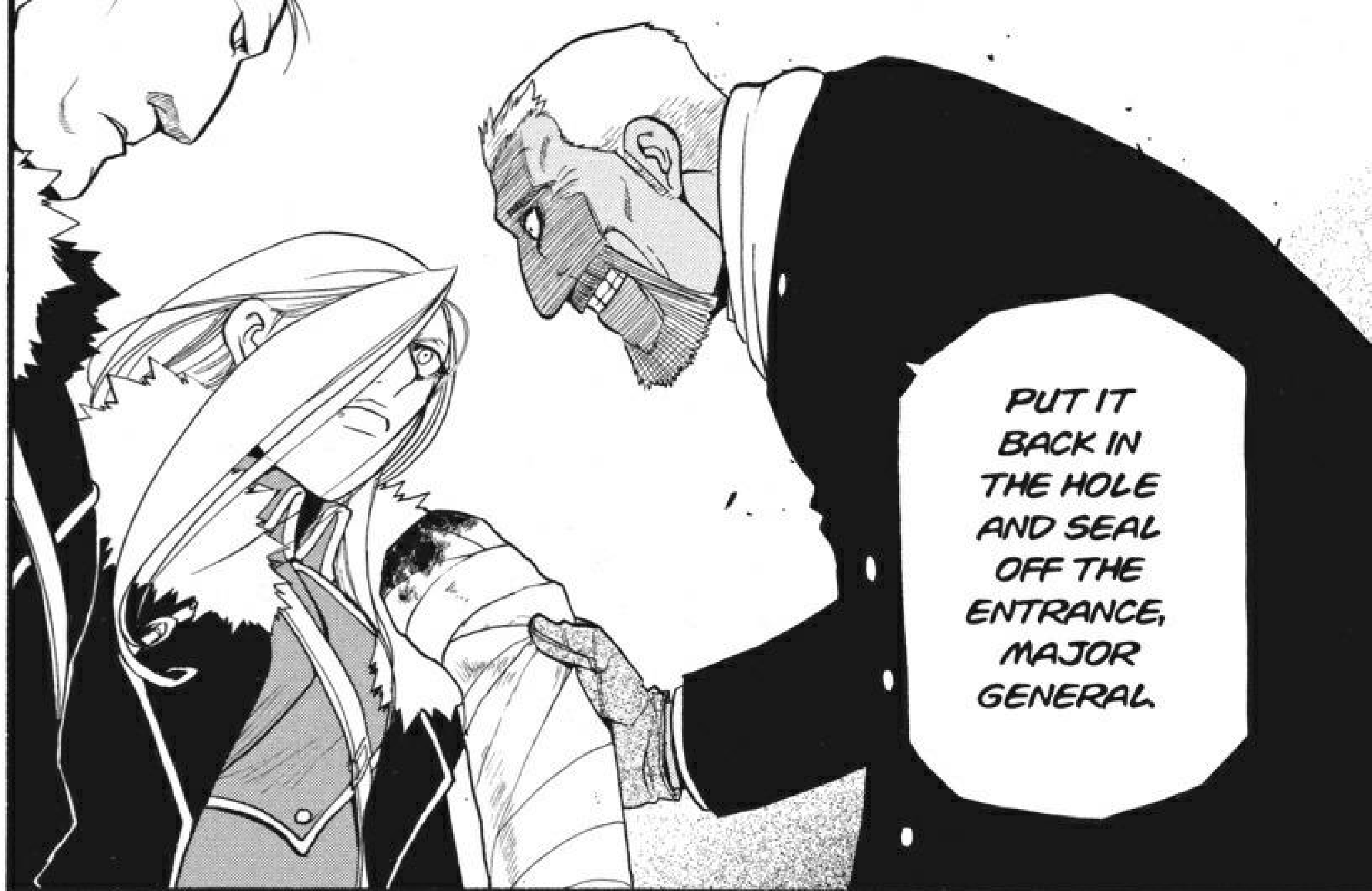
GWON

GWON

GWON



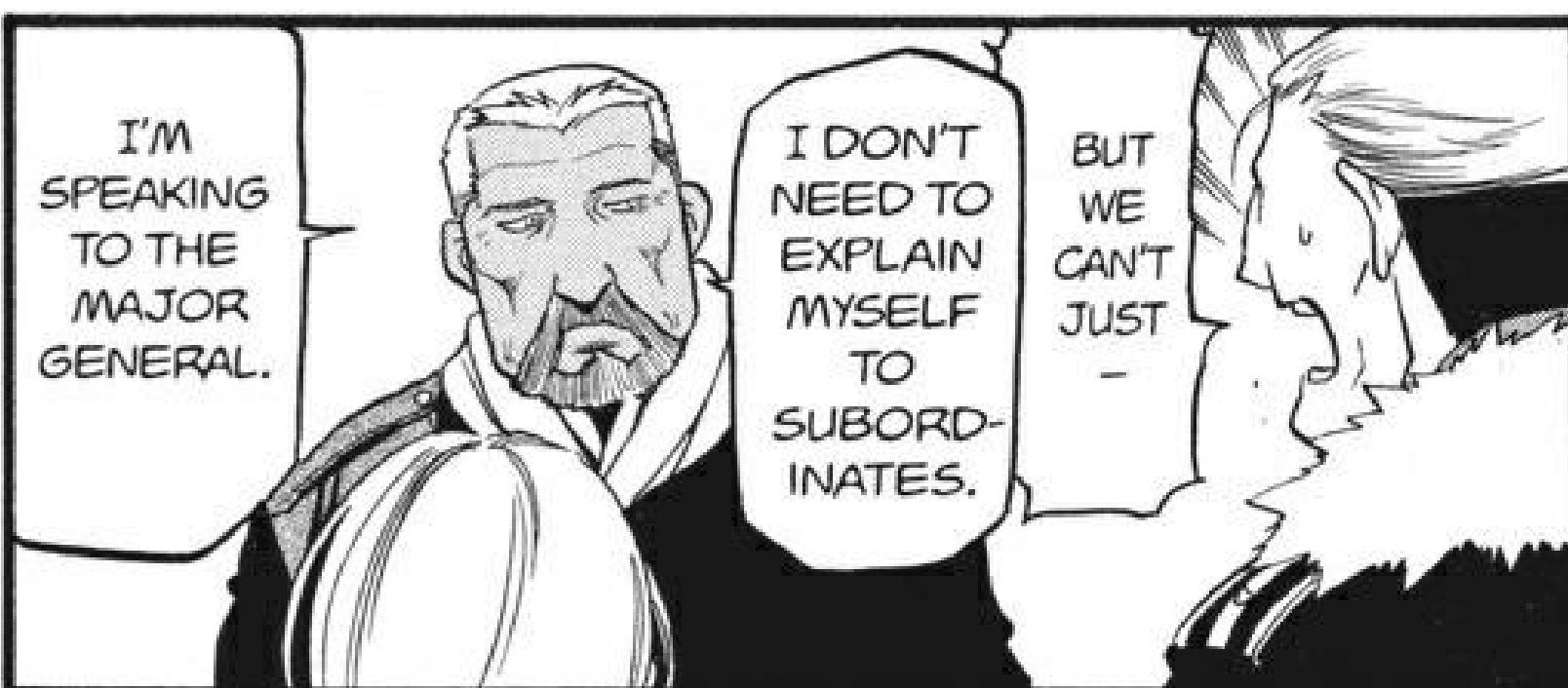
WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THAT IMMORTAL BIOLOGICAL WEAPON THAT YOU SPOKE OF?



PUT IT
BACK IN
THE HOLE
AND SEAL
OFF THE
ENTRANCE,
MAJOR
GENERAL



I'M
SPEAKING
TO THE
MAJOR
GENERAL.



I DON'T
NEED TO
EXPLAIN
MYSELF
TO
SUBORD-
INATES.

BUT
WE
CAN'T
JUST
—



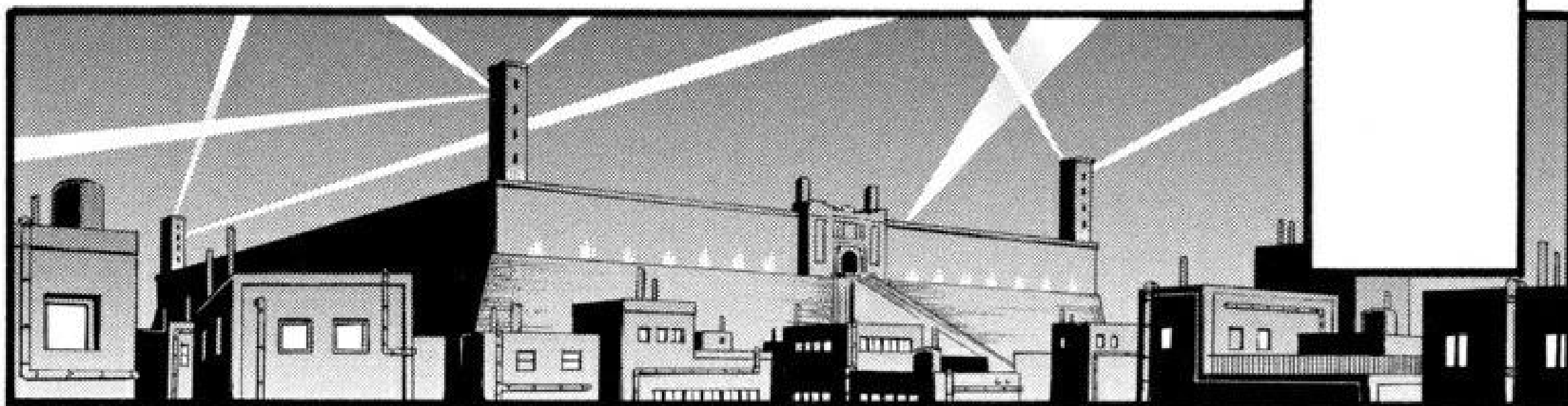
THE
AUTHOR-
ITIES
RULE?

ISN'T
THAT
THE
LAW
HERE
?



OBEY
AUTHORITY,
MAJOR
GENERAL
ARM-
STRONG.

BYOOOO



CONTINUE
TO OBEY
RAVEN'S
ORDERS.

...H.M.



...IS
THAT
SO?



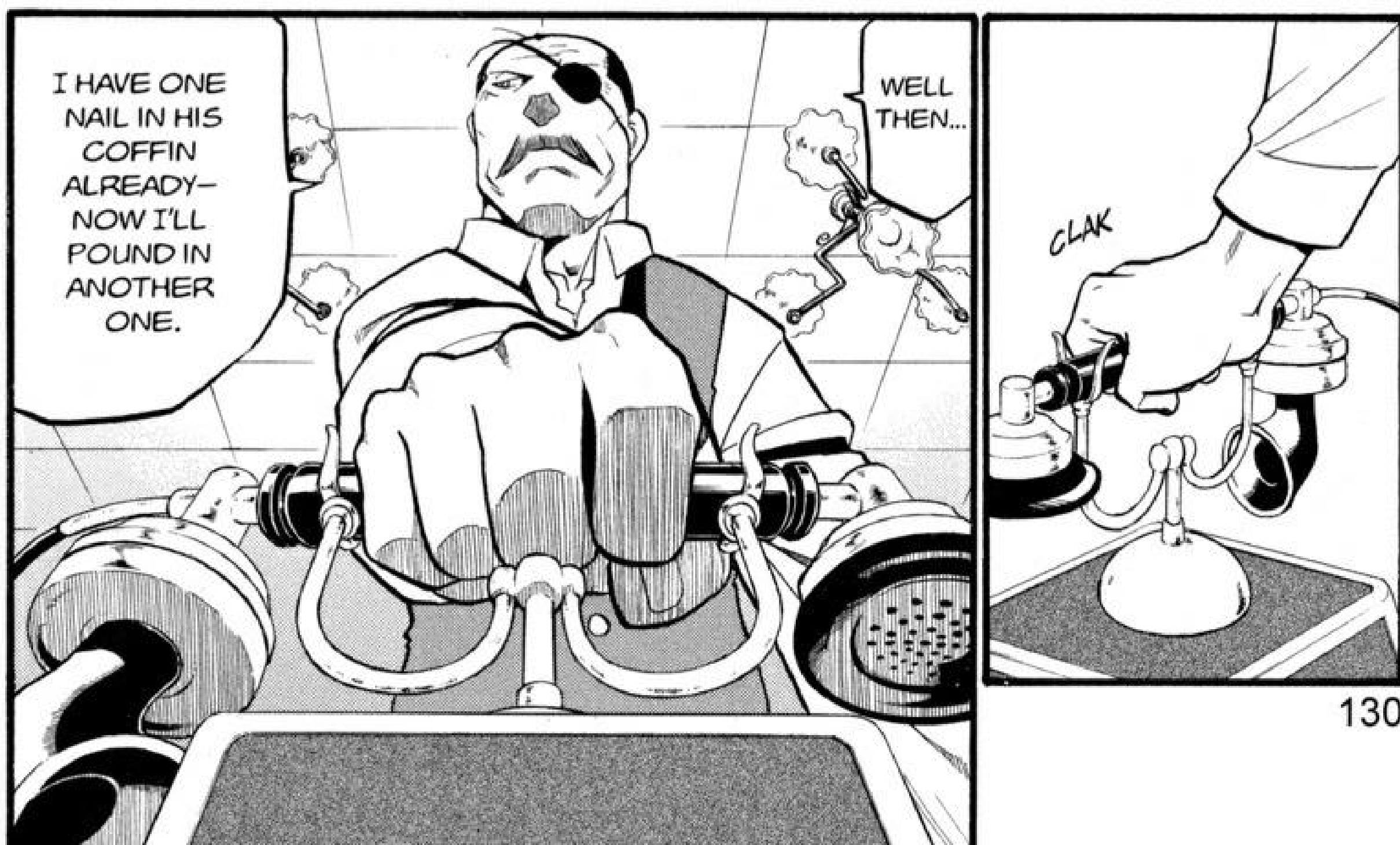
I MET
THE SO-
CALLED
FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST.

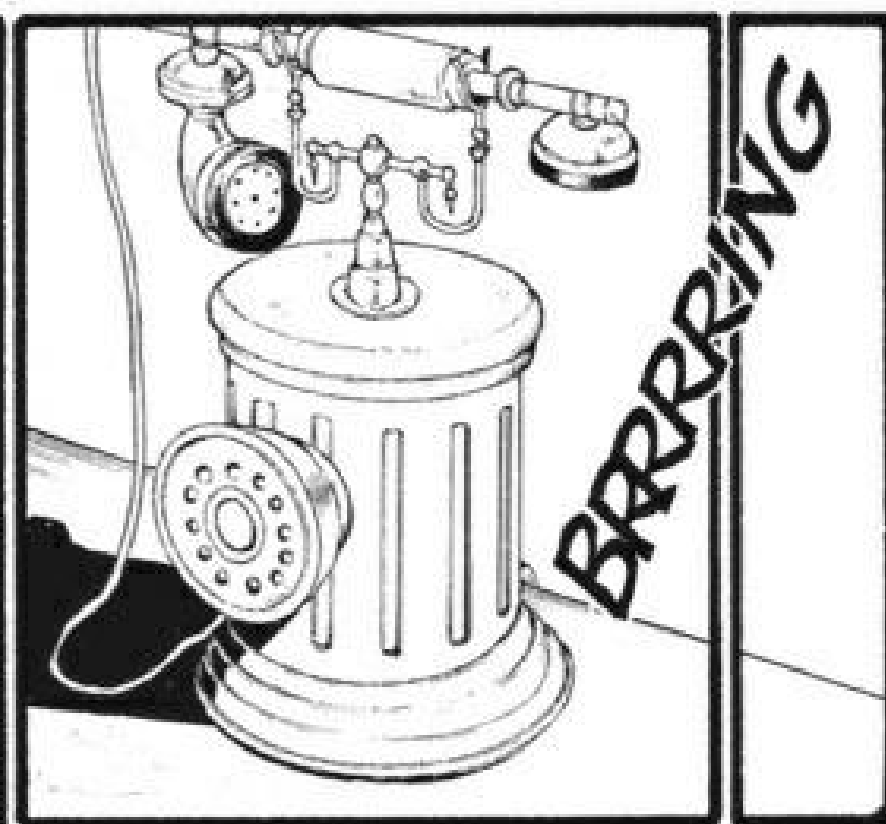
OH, I
AL-
MOST
FOR-
GOT.

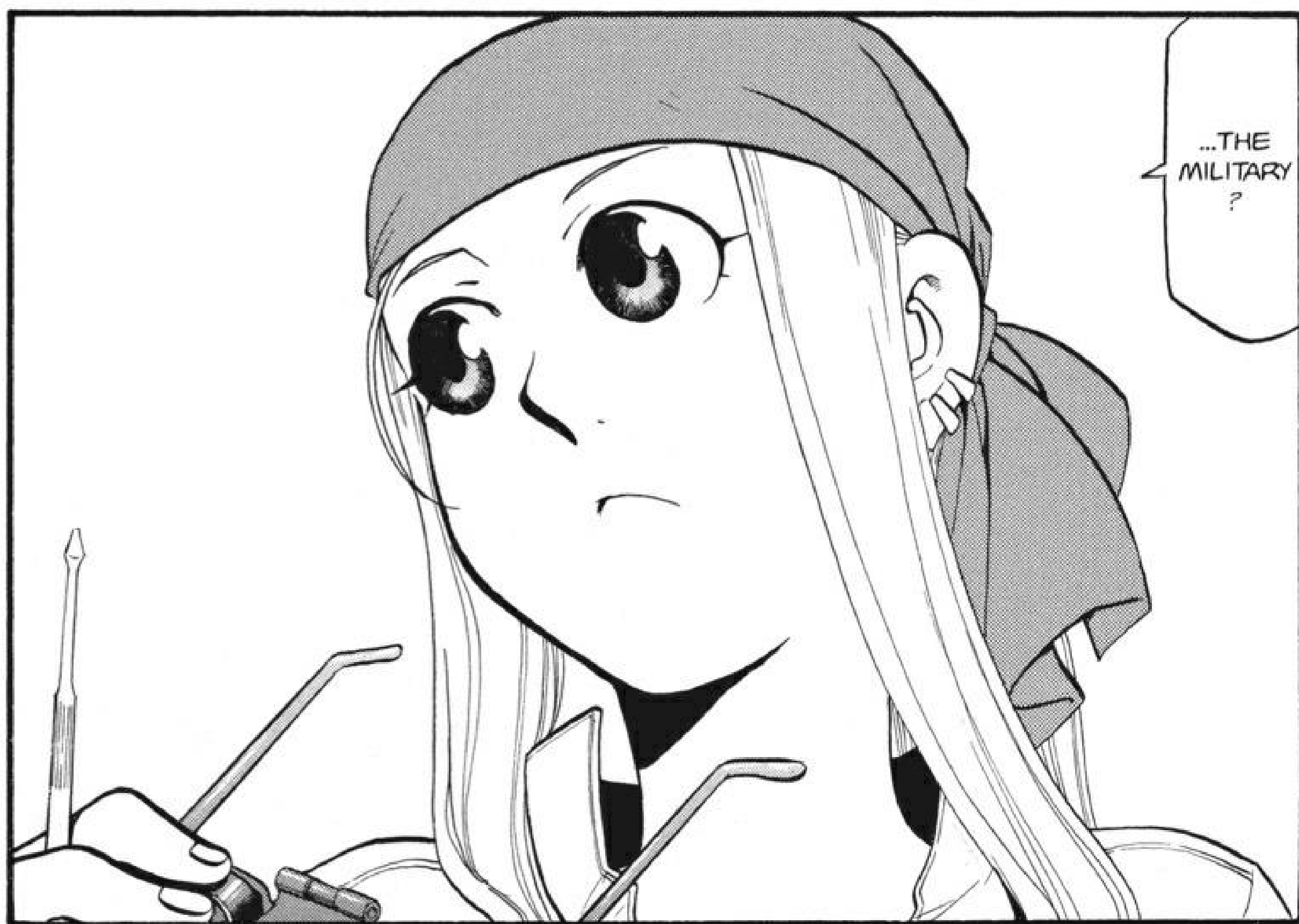


NICE
TO
HEAR
THAT,
SIR.

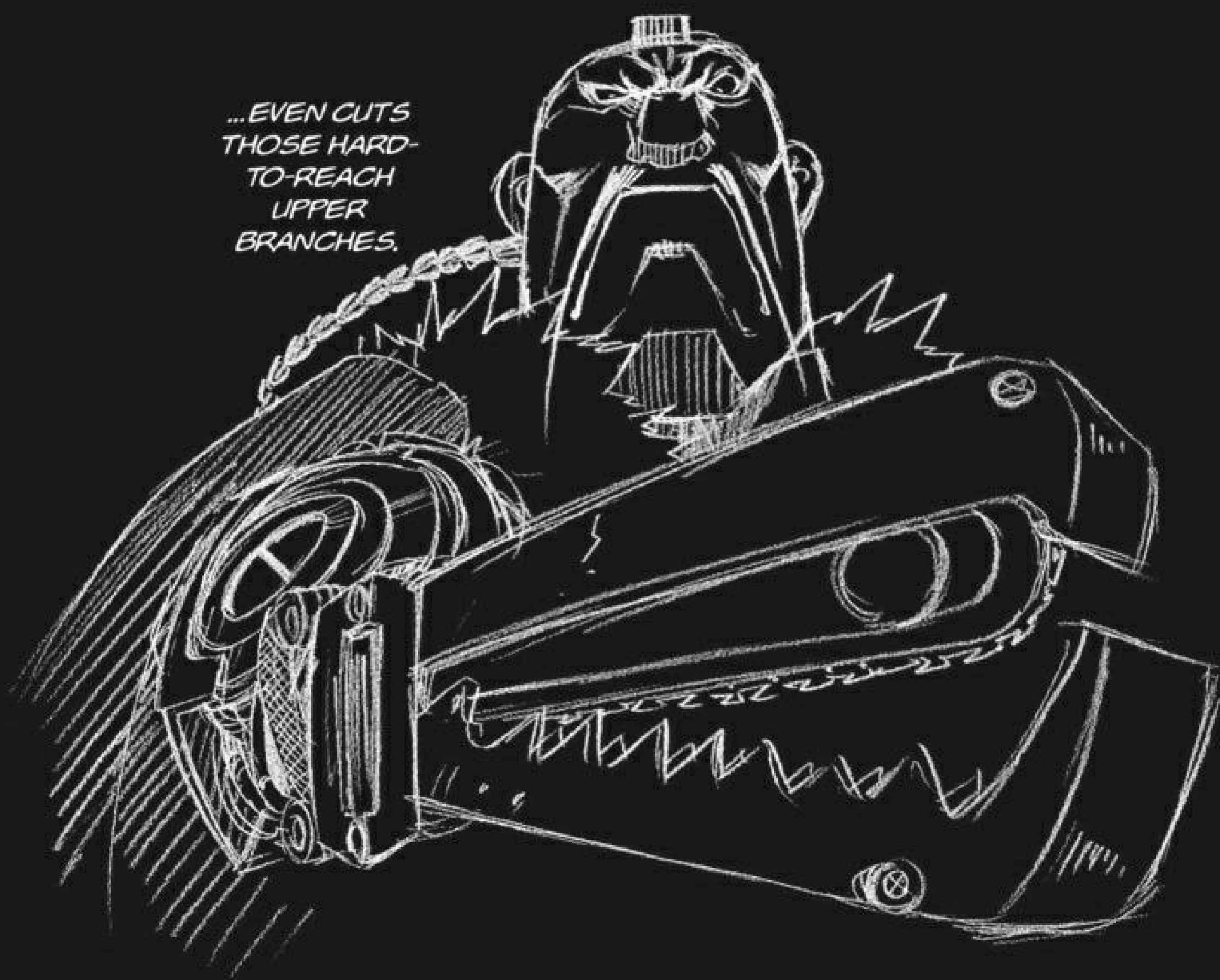
DON'T
WORRY.
I
GUAR-
ANTEE
THAT YOU
WILL BE
GRANTED
AUTHORITY
IN GOOD
TIME.







...EVEN CUTS
THOSE HARD-
TO-REACH
UPPER
BRANCHES.





FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST